



WEEKEND TIMES

GRANDER OPERA



Earls Court moves to Birmingham next week, when Grace Bumbry stars in another spectacular *Aida*. Weekend Times follows the score tomorrow

MAESTRO'S MISTAKE



Only Leonard Bernstein could have begun the national anthem when the Queen was halfway down the stairs. Humphrey Burton recalls what happened next in Weekend Times

Saturday Review

PUNK SHOCKER



Vivienne Westwood, former fashion designer to the punks, revels in unpopular ideas, as she explains in tomorrow's Saturday Review

NORMAN'S WISDOM



George Bush? Still a wimp, argues Norman Mailer, although even the great carouser has given up drinking, as he tells the Saturday Review

TODAY IN THE TIMES



When the Duke of Devonshire hosts a summit at Chatsworth, he likes to make sure the surroundings are comfortable. The Duke Muir interview Page 14

MOVING IMAGE



Margaret Thatcher — or is it John Thatcher? — sounds like a dream ticket for the Tories. What would Harold Callaghan say? Page 22

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Tories pledge to keep free health care as Heseltine rouses conference

Waldegrave hits at Labour NHS 'scare stories'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM Waldegrave launched the government's fightback in the political battle over the health service yesterday with promises of a patient's charter that would set out "ten commandments" for the NHS and a passionate denunciation of Labour's privatisation "scare stories".

The health secretary told the Conservative party conference that the charter, to be published soon, would enshrine the principle of free access to health care for everyone, regardless of means.

He accused Labour of being "truly sick" and of frightening vulnerable people with its claims that the Conservatives intended to privatisate the health service. "Their scare is what is called in football a professional foul. They know it's wrong and think that it's worth it. What they are doing

is setting out quite deliberately to frighten some of the most vulnerable people in our society. They exploit the very people they pretend to care for. They do it callously and with calculation."

Mr Waldegrave made plain that reforms to modernise the health service would go ahead despite Labour's determination to make the NHS the centrepiece of its election campaign — "anything else would betray the patients for whom we stand". The patient's charter would aim to bring down waiting times and set higher management standards. It would create, in effect, the first written constitution for the NHS, its "ten commandments".

"The first and most important of those rights enshrines the very principle which is the NHS: equal access to free health care throughout the country for everybody, regardless of their means. That is the first and

greatest health service commandment."

Mr Waldegrave, still battling with the Treasury for his 1992-3 budget, countered polls showing that two-thirds of people still believe the Tories would privatise the NHS with others saying that 88 per cent of patients were satisfied with their service in hospital and 91 per cent satisfied with treatment by their GPs.

He also announced, as expected, an enquiry into health care provision in London, to lead to "careful modernisation of the capital's health service".

Mr Waldegrave's speech, showing a fire and passion not previously the hallmark of his political style, earned him a standing ovation and was held by colleagues to have removed question marks about his cabinet future. The prime minister later described it as brilliant.

Representatives believed he had got the Tories off the back foot on an issue that Labour has made its own with his mockery of Labour's spending promises and his resolute defence of the need to modernise the health service and ensure that it gave value for money.

But the British Medical Association and Labour said he had failed to address the underfunding of the health service. The Royal College of Nursing expressed similar concern, but welcomed the commitment to the principle of free health care for all.

Mr Waldegrave's success came on a day that saw a suddenly more confident Tory party welcome back Michael Heseltine as a conference hero. Party managers' fears that Mr Heseltine, whose leadership challenge brought down Margaret Thatcher, could be given a cool reception had redoubled after Mrs Thatcher's rapturous reception on Wednesday. But after six years of being denied the conference platform, he was given an almost equally enthusiastic ovation after a typically rumbustious speech in which he promised that when the Tories were given the signal by John Major they would "take the Labour party apart as never before".

Mr Heseltine pleased the conference by announcing legislation to deny councillors who refuse to pay the community charge the right to vote on local taxation. He asked: "What community ethic entitles Labour councillors to inflate local bills which they can't afford to pay themselves? It's worse that that, they then expect their constituents to pay on their behalf. To those councillors who won't pay their bills, I say, 'won't pay, can't vote'."

The success enjoyed by Mr Heseltine and Mrs Thatcher has increased the pressure on the prime minister to make a big impression with his first conference speech as leader today. Mr Major will be expected to set out a clear programme of his priorities for the party to launch them on the election campaign.

Cancelled operations, page 2
Tories at Blackpool, page 8
Peter Riddell, page 16
Leading article, page 17

saying "father, I cannot tell a lie" with conviction; but if Mr Waldegrave was implicated in cutting down a cherry tree or privatising a health service, it is unlikely he could pretend otherwise. His speaking style is weakened by a complete lack of rhythm and he cannot perform and hardly tries, but, perhaps as a result, he never sounds bogus.

Which brings us to Mr Heseltine. What an artist.

"Ooh!" squealed the MP for Cleethorpes, beside me, "it's like ... it's like ... being in a bikini jet when you're roaring down the runway and the wings are flapping and the engines are screaming and you've reached maximum ground speed and you're bouncing up and down and pressed against the seatback by the force of 3G and, and ... whoosh! You're just longing for that, that ... final thrust as the undercarriage lifts you and your roar up into the sky..."

The conference liked him. An earnest, brainy boy, they could see he was a sensitive soul. It wasn't his fault he'd gone to public school. But up against that social weasel, Robi Cook, could he relate to the ordinary voter? The conference hoped so.

Mr Waldegrave started his speech in Latin. "Sanitas sanitatis, omnia sanitatis" he stammered, apparently quoting Disraeli. His audience thought he was at advertising a bathroom disinfectant.

For Mr Waldegrave's next hero he chose Iain Macleod. Modern Tories know at least that Iain Macleod was a nice man, who probably spoke English. Mrs Virginia Bottomley, a nice woman who definitely speaks English, gave her boss, Mr Waldegrave, a nice smile.

From this point, Mr Waldegrave speech looked up. Lapping into English himself, he explained his plans for the NHS, persuading us that at least Mr Waldegrave understood what he was doing, even if we didn't. Besides, he looked honorable — a quality which a Tory health secretary may find useful in the months ahead. It is hard to imagine many of the present cabinet

Continued on page 22, col 1

tutes to most of them (often right) are contained in the dictionary.

An Archer is London street slang for £2,000, after Jeffrey Archer, pop page-turner scribe, playwright and former deputy chairman of the Conservative party, who resigned from this last post after being accused of paying a prostitute. Monica Coughlan, bushy money of £2,000, and scooped a vast sum of money from newspapers in damages. An Archer is sometimes also called a Jeffrey.

Caruncular has become a yahoo populist epithet to slag off architecture that is deemed ugly or offensive, ever since in 1984 the Prince of Wales described the proposed modern extension to the National Gallery as being "like a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much loved and elegant friend". The new edition is provided by the first completely new edition of Brewer's *Dictionary of Twentieth Century Phrase and Fable* since 1870, published next Thursday and reviewed in *The Times* next week.

Where did the Prince of Wales catch his monstrous carbuncle? Why is an Archer worth £2,000? These are puzzling questions, but not beyond all conjecture. The answers or conject-

revolution. Out go most of the old literary, and biblical, and historical references. In comes the street slang of the Nineties, Brit and American. The etymologies are still dodgy and adventurous, as all folk etymologies of slang are always going to be. Brewer used to be the book you gave your elderly maiden aunt for Christmas. Not any more, it ain't.

Lots of the new slang is distinctly raunchy and is terribly bad taste, from Manhattan sels' to dickless Traccys. Where the old editions of Brewer had pages of horses and dogs in myth and literature and heraldry, the latest one has horse as slang for heroin, and dog's breath as rude slang for a person who is heartily disliking.

Brewer's has always been the source of last resort for puzzling questions that are not answered in conventional dictionaries and encyclopedias. It has

also been a friend in need for hacks in a hurry with a hopeless piece, desperate for a lateral reference and esoteric knowledge to swank with.

The new edition confines itself to the words and phrases of our bustling 20th-century, and deliberately excludes those that came before. Its 8,000 entries are accordingly strong on our contemporary specialities, such as advertising slogans, sex scandals, television jingles, and technology, from Blake Custer to Juno Space Mission; and notably weak on the roots of our culture in literature, proverbs, and catchphrases.

It will be an invaluable source for scribblers and fans of trivial pursuit knowledge. But they had better get a previous, old-fashioned edition, as well, if they want to know the quirks of language that came before this century.



Their darling Heseltine: the environment secretary during his speech, which earned him a tumultuous ovation, at the Conservative conference yesterday

MPs launch enquiry into tunnel impact

By SHEILA GUNN AND MICHAEL DYNES

A PARLIAMENTARY enquiry will be launched later this month into the impact of the Channel tunnel because of MPs' doubts about the ability of British Rail to cope with passenger and freight traffic.

As MPs expressed their unhappiness, criticism over the government's approval of an eastern approach for the high-speed rail link into London via Stratford intensified last night when the long-term consequences of the decision began to unfold.

In addition to the environmental impact of the new route in the east, it emerged that freight trains formerly destined to run through south-west London could now be switched to the north London line through West Hampstead, Finchley, Kentish Town, Caledonian Road, Homerton, and Hackney Wick.

The all-party Commons transport committee will set out to find what transport services and facilities will

the Channel tunnel's safety and policing arrangements. Its first session on Thursday will take evidence in Maidstone, Kent, from the county's chief constable Paul Condon and Jeremy Beech, the chief fire officer.

Last night, ministers were accused of jeopardising Britain's economic prospects by delaying construction of the link, sacrificing the interests of commuters in London and the South-east to help safeguard a

Continued on page 22, col 3

Yugoslav army to 'pull out' of Croatia

By GEORGE BROWN
IN THE HAGUE AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Yugoslav federal army has apparently agreed to pull out of Croatia within the next month, Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, said last night.

He spoke after mediating the EC-sponsored peace talks for Yugoslavia between the leaders of Croatia, Serbia and the federal military. Mr van den Broek said that the withdrawal was to begin immediately and it would be matched by a simultaneous lifting of Croatian blockades around federal army barracks in the secessionist republic. The significance of the agreement was not immediately clear.

Blockades of Adriatic ports and federal army barracks in Croatia were already being lifted last night, European Community ceasefire monitors said. Simon Smits, the monitoring mission spokesman, said naval and land blockades along the Dalmatian coast, where seven ports had been besieged, were being removed. Croatian forces were also ending their siege of the army's Borongaj barracks in Zagreb, the Croatian capital.

The apparent easing of the blockades came as President Gorbachev invited the presidents of Serbia and Croatia, Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman, to visit Moscow for talks on ending the fighting. Mr Gorbachev's initiative occurred as the EC's fragile Yugoslav peace conference brought the president of Croatia face-to-face with the Serbian general whose pilots tried to assassinate him in last Monday's bombing of Zagreb's presidential offices.

Fierce fighting was reported earlier yesterday in the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar. One hundred Yugoslav federal soldiers were killed, according to Croatian television and radio, although the federal army has denied sustaining any losses. Croatian television reported heavy shelling from Karyusha rockets, tanks and mortar fire, while the radio reported fighting in the streets and an attack by "several hundred soldiers" during the afternoon.

However, this was before the ceasefire monitors' spokesman said the two sides were finally complying with a ceasefire agreement that they agreed on Tuesday.

Earlier reports, page 10

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I am not a political animal, says head of health service enquiry



By PETER DAVENPORT

THE man chosen to lead the government's commission of enquiry into London's hospitals insisted yesterday that politics would play no part in his deliberations.

Sir Bernard Tomlinson, aged 71, the former chairman of the Northern regional health authority and emeritus professor of pathology at Newcastle University, said: "I am not a political animal. I am solely interested in the NHS. If there had been any suggestion that I was to follow any political line in this enquiry, I simply would not have taken the job on. No such suggestion has been made. Nor would I expect it to be made."

The Labour party has already condemned the enquiry as a government admission of failing

to predict the detrimental effects of an internal market on hospital services in the city.

Yesterday Sir Bernard added: "I have no political affiliations myself, although I was campaigning for a national health service before Labour's health spokesman, Robin Cook, was born."

Sir Bernard was appointed chairman of the Northern regional health authority in 1985 by the then social services secretary, Norman Fowler. The Labour party is expected to use the decision to make him head of the commission of enquiry as evidence to support their campaign about the proliferation of Tory supporters in key health service posts.

Part of Sir Bernard's brief is to investigate self-governing plans by four main London teaching

hospitals: St Mary's, St Bartholomew's, St Thomas and King's College, which, it is said, are now being frozen pending the deliberations of the enquiry.

He said: "My terms of reference are to advise the secretaries of state for health and education and science on present health care provision in inner London within the framework of the reformed NHS. It is to include the balance between the acute and primary health services, the organisation and provision of undergraduate teaching, post graduate medical education and research and development."

The health department said that the enquiry would also consider the health needs of London's resident and day-time population, the emerging purchasing plans of health authorities and their likely

impact on inner London hospitals, future development in the provision of acute and primary care and the need to maintain quality patient care with high standards of medical teaching, research and development.

Sir Bernard said he believed that London had been singled out as a special case for an enquiry, when many other provincial hospitals were also facing critical decisions over their futures because it had the largest problem in having many hospitals and medical centres.

Sir Bernard responded to Labour's claims that the government was planning a "back door" privatisation of the NHS. "I have never seen any evidence of that at all," he said.

Sir Bernard, who headed the team which disciplined two

paediatricians after the Cleveland child sex abuse affair, will be supported on the enquiry by a team of experts including Sir Robert Kilpatrick, president of the General Medical Council, Professor Michael Bond, vice-principal of Glasgow University, Peter Brown, primary service manager with Riverside health authority and Dr Mollie McBride, a London GP.

He will talk to a wide range of concerned organisations including health authorities, funding bodies, London University, the medical schools and the teaching hospitals.

• The chief executive of the Bradford Hospitals Trust denied reports yesterday that he had resigned his position. Dr Mark Baker, who was criticised for his handling of redundancy

announcements for 300 workers earlier this year, admitted however, that he was seeking a new job.

Dr Baker said he had not resigned nor been asked to leave his post and that he still remained as chief executive of the trust which includes the city's Royal Infirmary and St Luke's Hospital.

He said he was discussing a new post as a consultant in public health medicine with Yorkshire regional health authority. "I have had informal discussions but no job offer has been made," he said.

Dr Baker faced detailed questioning about the business plan of the trust when he appeared before the Commons all-party select committee on health earlier this year.

Diary, page 16

Hospitals ridicule Labour data on cancelled operations

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH authorities have no idea how many operations they have cancelled this year. Although all regional health authorities have to submit a plethora of information about operations carried out to the health department every three months, they do not have to collect data on how many operations they postponed.

The frank admission by several regional health authorities telephoned by *The Times* yesterday follows a survey by Harriet Harman, Opposition spokeswoman for health, which alleged that almost 300,000 operations were cancelled last year. The claim was made two hours before William Waldegrave's speech in Blackpool.

The regions contacted were baffled as to how Ms Harman reached that conclusion based on the information they had given her. Ms Harman said

that she and her researchers had contacted all the 14 regions to get a breakdown of cancelled operations for each region.

What the regions gave her, however, was the number of "cancelled operating sessions". These sessions could cover between one and, say, eight patients depending on the complexity of the operation. Ms Harman chose the average and multiplied each cancelled session by that number.

In a note to editors attached to the press release sent out on Wednesday night, Ms Harman admits: "The figures are calculated by dividing the number of cases in scheduled operating sessions by the number of scheduled sessions held to get an average number of cases per session. This is then multiplied by the number of cancelled sessions to give a

figure for the number of cancelled operations."

The regions said Ms Harman had not taken into account the fact that if a theatre session is cancelled it does not mean that patients have their operations cancelled. Some patients might get treated on a different list by a different doctor. Others might get treated in the afternoon or the next day.

"The survey falls down because cancelled sessions do not mean cancelled operations," said a spokeswoman for North West Thames regional health authority.

"Sessions are planned months in advance because theatre time is so valuable that it has to be allocated — usually to a named consultant. However, if these are changed for any reason — because the consultant is going on holiday, or on a training course and swaps with another doctor, or if we have an emergency session — then the session is recorded as 'cancelled'."

Sometimes too, patients turned up or consultants had such a light list that they combined with a colleague. Again the records clerk pens in "cancelled" behind the session, even though no patients were affected.

North West Thames says that it cancelled 3,410 sessions last year out of 42,873, but has no idea how many patients had their operations deferred. "Sometimes patients will turn up and a consultant is sick, or we do not have enough staff," said the spokeswoman, but could provide no figures in support. "We have to collect hundreds of bits of information already. If we had to collect any more the NHS would have no time to treat any patients."

Mersey region was outraged that Ms Harman had accused it of cancelling 15,288 operations. The region, which prides itself on making dramatic inroads into its waiting lists said: "We cannot understand Harriet Harman's figures. The Mersey region carried out 170,000 operations last year. We did not cancel more than a handful. We are in the middle of election campaigning and politicians of all parties are going to make statements about health. But these figures are not correct, are worrying for patients and undermine staff morale."

Leading article, page 17

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Phew, but not a scorcher

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Indian summer could be coming a little late this year. Temperatures in London reached a pleasant 20°C (68°F) yesterday, but that is by no means exceptional for the time of year. In 1921, a year which put in a scorcher finish, the same day, October 10, provided a temperature of 25.6°C (78°F) at Kensington Palace.

The 1921 records for October were broken as recently as 1985, when, on October 1, 29.5°C (85°F) was recorded at Waddon, in Croydon, south London. On the same day, other places in the South and East Anglia basked in temperatures well into the 80s Fahrenheit.

Habitually, the tabloid press hails the advent of an Indian summer, though, because the weather will be cloudy and humid, with pauses of rain on the south easterly winds from France. A proper Indian summer has been celebrated in print in the first week of September.

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truth, has nothing to do with British weather at all. It is of American origin and meant fine, sunny and dry, though sometimes hazy, weather in late autumn. It was called an Indian summer because such conditions were more frequent in the Indian territories to the west than on the east coast originally inhabited by the white population.

The man at the London Weather Centre yesterday did not know that, but there is more.

A late hot spell in Britain should properly be called an Indian summer, though, because the weather will be cloudy and humid, with pauses of rain on the south easterly winds from France. A proper Indian summer has been celebrated in print in the first week of September.

The clichéd phrase, is

with the department were continuing. Its tender was submitted by Group 4 Remand Services, a firm set up to satisfy government demands that the jail should have a model regime, affording prisoners substantially longer periods out of their cells than would be normal in a state-managed remand centre.

Ministers hope the Prison Officers' Association, a union deeply distrustful of government, will be swayed. The jail opens next April.

The contracting out of the jail is being opposed by the Prison Governors' Association and the nine unions with members in state jails. They have moral objections to commercially-run jails and believe that standards are likely to be lower than in the

public sector. A joint union campaign is being launched on Monday to highlight the alleged dangers of the Wolds experiment.

Fresh evidence of the government's interest in private prisons came on Wednesday when Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, told the Conservative conference in Blackpool that the Wolds was not intended to be a one-off.

In May, Angela Rumbold, the Home Office minister of state responsible for prisons, toured a privately-run prison in California in an effort to improve the government's knowledge of how similar schemes are worked abroad.

Most British jails were run for profit before the passage in 1878 of the Prison Reform Act which brought all penal institutions in the country under state control.

TALKING HEALTHY HEART?
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Pilot error blamed for helicopter accident

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE skull behind the enigmatic smile of an Etruscan sarcophagus will be revealed tomorrow at the British Museum.

Scientists have reconstructed the life of Seianti Hanunia Tlesosia, who lived 2,200 years ago. She was a woman of some importance in the second century BC, living near the Clusium made famous by Lars Porsena, the opponent of Horatius when he kept the bridge at Rome.

Although long forgotten, Seianti's name and likeness have survived the generations, preserved on her magnificent painted sarcophagus. Long a favourite with schoolchildren, it shows her reclining in a tunic and tiara, her mantle over her head and held back by one hand as she looks at her mortal image in a mirror. The mirror itself was found when the tomb was opened.

She died at the advanced age, for the time, of around 80, and, apart from the mirror, was buried with her intimate possessions: a lidded box, flask and oval vessel were hung from rings on the walls of her tomb.

Archaeologists will detail the content of her life and death; dental and anatomical experts will discuss the vicissitudes which she underwent in her four score years; and a forensic scientist will present what the museum calls a remarkable reconstruction of her face, based on careful analysis of the muscle attachments on the bones of the skull.

For £10 the public can attend and hear the life history of an Etruscan lady.

Papers cut jobs

News International confirmed last night that about 120 staff engaged in photo composition will be made redundant as electronic page make-up is introduced to all its titles over the next 12 months. Meanwhile, post-press distribution of newspapers at the plant would be contracted out, the company said, meaning the loss of a further 70 jobs. A spokesman said that all those affected were being interviewed and assessed individually. The company denied a claim by the electricians' union Etpu that delays in production were due to staff redundancies, and said delays were minimal.

Protestant killed

Republican gunmen shot dead a Protestant in a public house in Belfast yesterday. Harry Ward, aged 42, was murdered after being singled out as he drank in the Diamond Jubilee bar at Peters Hill in the Loyalist Shankill Road area of the city. He tried to flee but two gunmen chased him into the pub's rear by off-licence and shot him at least six times at close range. The killer escaped in a waiting car.

Crash verdict

The ten people who were killed when more than 50 vehicles collided in fog on the M4 died accidentally, a coroner ruled yesterday. Charles Hoile, the West Berkshire coroner, recorded his verdict after hearing four days of evidence at Newbury. Many of the victims died when their cars ignited. Four drivers are to be prosecuted after the crash last March.

Child abuse expert was ignored

Hospital criticised over mental patient who killed man

By RONALD FAUX

THE treatment of a mental patient who stabbed a man to death in the street five days after being allowed to discharge himself from Garlands hospital, Carlisle, was criticised in an enquiry report published yesterday by East Cumbria health authority.

Standards of supervision and organisation at the hospital were described as less than satisfactory. A decision by a consultant psychiatrist that there were no grounds to detain the patient, Stephen Findley, aged 22, of Brampton, Cumbria, who had been described as extremely dangerous, surprised the committee.

The case comes only a week after Mr Justice Turner called for an enquiry into why Carol Ann Barratt, aged 24, a dangerously psychotic woman who stabbed Emma Brodie, aged 11, to death with a carving knife in Doncaster, south Yorkshire, had been released two days earlier from a mental hospital where she had been held after an attack on a girl.

Mr Findley was arrested by Northumbria police on November 19 after a fracas in a Sunderland nightclub. He was found to have a loaded air pistol and two knives.

He was examined by a police surgeon and consultant psychiatrist from the Cherry Knowle hospital, Sunderland, and detained under Section 2 of the Mental Health Act. Seven days later he was transferred to Garlands hospital and admitted into an intensive care unit for patients with disturbed behaviour.

The enquiry report said that Mr Findley had appealed against his detention and a hearing of the mental Health review tribunal was arranged six days after his transfer to Garlands. His consultant psychiatrist had implied in a report to the tribunal that the detention order should continue and stated that Mr Findley had shown significant improvement.

The consultant psychiatrist was not present at the tribunal hearing because it coincided with an outpatient clinic but a further report by a social worker concluded that a full assessment of Mr Findley had not been possible and that there had been evidence of aggressive behaviour. The tribunal directed that he should remain in detention.

On December 3 the consultant psychiatrist, who was not

House sellers give redundancy cover

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSE sellers are being invited to insure their buyers' mortgage repayments for a year against redundancy.

The scheme by GA Property Services to help the recovery of a housing market depressed by fears of unemployment is being offered nationally through the chain's 450 offices. The cost of the insurance, devised by its parent company General Accident, will be around £130. GA said that the scheme was popular with buyer and seller.

Fear of unemployment was noted by the Halifax Building Society in its latest house price survey. Agents within the Halifax Property Services network reported that the uncertainty created by unemployment worries had offset the benefit of lower mortgage rates.

The cover under the scheme comes into effect after the first 56 days of unemployment and will pay up to £1,000 a month for 12 months. Buyers will also be offered accident and sickness cover at a discounted rate, and once initial cover ceases they can opt for full

unemployment, accident and sickness insurance to continue their cover.

Linked to the scheme is a 24-hour helpline to help people over the impact of losing their jobs and get them back to work as soon as possible.

GA's initiative, which the company says is the first to be offered nationally by an estate agent, is the latest attempt to spur the property market into activity.

Hunting Gate Homes, one of the first to introduce a redundancy protection scheme, has now launched a package that will provide mortgage cover for up to three years and an extra £100-£200 to cover other household bills for up to a year.

Help is offered to owners in arrears or facing repossession by Home Services of Sheffield. This allows householders to remain in their home, having sold it at a discounted price, but with possession deferred, for up to 18 months. The company says the extra time allows many householders to sort out their financial difficulties.

Child abuse expert call was ignored

By KERRY GILL

A SUGGESTION that an independent child psychologist should study allegations of sexual abuse by three Orkney children was not followed up, a senior social worker said yesterday.

Susan Millar, the social worker behind the taking into care of nine children last February, told the judicial enquiry that a detective superintendent from Orkney had suggested that a psychologist should be asked to assess drawings by the children, aged seven, eight and nine from a family known as W, the day after the allegations emerged. The proposal was dismissed.

The nine children were taken into care after allegations by three children from another family. The allegations claimed that the children had been sexually abused while parents stood in a circle on the Orkney island of South Ronaldsay and clapped, danced and drank wine.

Mrs Millar defended the social work department's decision not to employ a child psychologist. She said that she and Paul Lee, the social work director, believed they had enough evidence already. They were convinced by the W family's allegations.

The enquiry was told earlier that references to puppies and sheep looking like "maggots in a field" by children in care caused social workers concern. Mrs Millar said the children from the W family referred to a number of animals. It was reported that one child had apparently tried to make a "fluffy puppy" toy to one of their foster parent's Jack Russell terriers.

The enquiry continues today.

Rodin bronzes feared lost in fire

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND AND STEWART TENDER

BRONZES by Rodin, Bourdelle and other 20th century masters were among a £5 million group of 230 works stored in the west London art warehouse devastated by a fire earlier this week. It was disclosed yesterday.

As police scientists continued investigations at the scene of the fire in Feltham, near Heathrow airport, a spokesman for James Bourdelle and Son, the art packer and transporter, confirmed that part of the Stuyvesant collection of South African art, worth £50 million, was stored in the warehouse.

Master of the Horse resigns

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Earl of Westmorland, aged 67, has resigned his ceremonial position as Master of the Horse, the third most senior post in the Queen's Household after the Lord Chamberlain and the Lord Steward, it was announced yesterday. He will be replaced by Lord Somerleyton, a lord in waiting to the Queen.

Lord Westmorland said from his Gloucestershire home yesterday that he was resigning his position, which he took over from the late Duke of Beaufort in 1978, because of ill-health. He has become increasingly troubled with asthma.

Master of the Horse is one of the oldest existing offices in the land, the first incumbent, John Russell, having been appointed by Richard II in 1391 at a time when there was serious work to be done in preparing the sovereign's mounts for both ceremony and battle. Nowadays the post

is largely honorary.

The Master has, doubtless to his relief, no responsibility for the Queen's racehorses, but is nominally in charge of the Royal Mews where the ceremonial horses, carriages and royal cars are kept. Day-to-day running, however, is in the care of the Crown Equerry, currently Lt-Col Seymour Gilbart-Denham, a former

Michael Clayton, editor of *Horse and Hound*, said yesterday that although the post was ceremonial, some knowledge of horsemanship was essential. "It helps to know which end the oats go in, especially as the monarch is one of the greatest enthusiasts in the country for all things equestrian."

He had been relieved to hear that valuable paintings in his care, by Matisse and Robert Delaunay, had been found safe in the strongroom. Last night, staff at the Museum of Modern Art confirmed that they were awaiting the delivery of 15 works by the 20th century German sculptors Ernst Barlach and Käthe Kollwitz.

"It felt like losing your children," Mr. Rupert is quoted as saying. He said that

the total value of works in the fire was 24 million pounds (about £5 million). He did not know how many of the works had been stored in the strongroom, away from the worst of the fire. He said the art works, some of which were in transit between Cyprus and Hong Kong, were covered by insurance. The Stuyvesant Collection had used Bourdelle for 18 years.

Meanwhile, as the police continued to refuse entry to members of the insurance industry while they continued their arson investigations, the art market speculated about the damage sustained. "I'm still waiting to get in," said Ian Fairley, of Graham Miller Group, who includes Sotherby's among his clients.

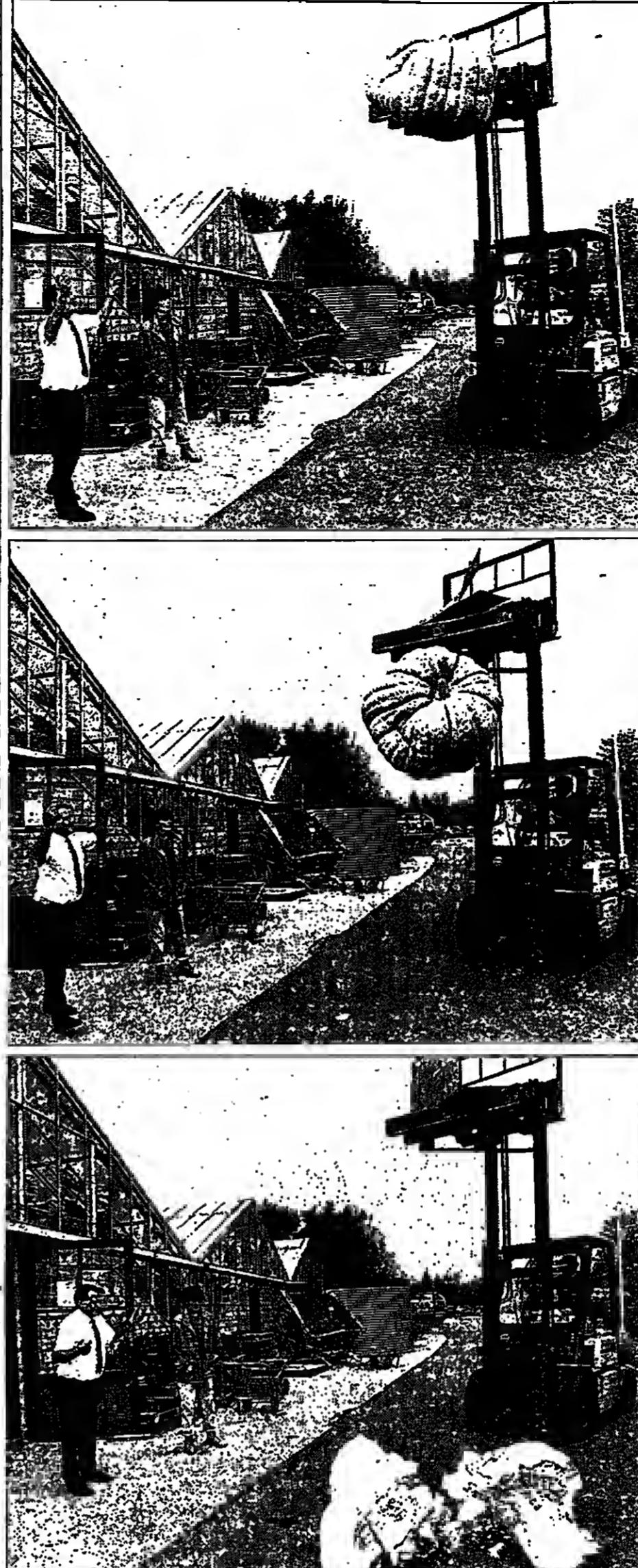
He had been relieved to hear that valuable paintings in his care, by Matisse and Robert Delaunay, had been found safe in the strongroom.

"It is a miracle that anything was saved," he said as he recounted how staff and passers-by waded through piles of black muck formed from ash and plaster on the night of the fire to retrieve objects, assisted by the light from their car headlights.

Following the publication in *The Times* yesterday of a photograph of some salvaged works, one collector had rung from America asking whether the bronze sculpture on the right could be his Degas, Mr Fairley said. Such was the mentality of collectors, and the insurance industry, he said, that most of what took place on Monday night would be kept secret.

At present, no clear motive for the fire is known, should it prove to be arson. There is speculation that it could have been started to conceal a burglary.

TONY WHITE



Pie in the sky: Bernard Lavery's pride turns to horror as his hopes for the Baytree Nursery giant vegetable contest come down to earth. The forklift truck has pulped his 500lb pumpkin yesterday on the eve of the show at Weston, Lincolnshire

Publicans take their protest to Blackpool

There were no toasts to the health of the Tory party conference from a bevy of mine hosts fearing last orders for thousands of jobs, reports Tony Dawe

THE talk was of martyrs and Galleon, in Greenwich, south-east London, said he had spent £85,000 refurbishing his pub. "Despite all my efforts in improving the place, I have been given notice to quit by January 6 next year unless I sign a new deal which could mean putting the price of a pint up to £3 if I was going to survive," he said.

Speakers described the government as a disgrace and accused it of putting thousands of families on the streets. To the Blackpool day-trippers, it must have seemed like another Militant rally. But until a year or so ago, almost all those taking part would have supported the Conservative party.

They were publicans who

believe their livelihoods are threatened because of the way the government is implementing a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the brewing industry. They converged on Blackpool to protest at the loss of their pubs or at rent rises which will force up the price of a pint to £2 or more. They already had a martyr, in the shape of Josie Williams, organiser of one of the first protest rallies, who was evicted from the Beauvor pub, Ebbw Vale, at a court hearing on Wednesday.

Neil Breeze, of the National Licensed Victuallers' Association, which organised the march, told the crowd: "We are here to show the people of Britain the misery, uncertainty and despair that thousands of licences now find themselves in."

The main aims of the government's reforms were to free 11,000 pubs from the ties of the top six brewers by the end of next year and to improve conditions for tenants. "What is happening is the reverse of what was anticipated," Alan Bartlett, the association president, said. "By their actions, brewers have twisted the legislation to suit themselves and have seized back lucrative houses for management, robbing tenants of their rewards, and putting them on the streets."

However, the marchers may have failed to impress many MPs and brewers, who claim that "whingeing" is second nature to landlords. They believe that some pub closures are inevitable and that many tenants are being offered greater security in deals which will prove attractive in the long term.

Few landlords would agree.

Shuni Davies, tenant of the Exhibition, in York, said: "We have spent more than £150,000 of our own money over the past five years in turning a run-down property into a successful pub. The brewery now wants us to pay four times as much rent."

Don Dirrane of the Spanish

Cocktails offer bars a tonic

By DAVID YOUNG

A CURE for the financial ill health of the British pub is being offered in the shape of cocktails in a test tube, gourmet mushroom soup in hospital-style "bladder packs" and Chinese food to be nibbled at the bar as an alternative to crisps.

The ideas are on show at the Innovate '91 trade show at Wembley, north London, this week. The most spectacular, and colourful, has been the launch of Testi-Coolz, a range of ready-to-drink cocktails packed in plastic test tubes, and offering publicans a profit margin of well over 100 per cent. The drinks, which contain gin, vodka, whisky and rum, and often all four, are bright and fluorescent, with a powerful kick.

They have been brought to Britain by Graham Worley, a Brighton bar owner, who has the UK rights. They are already a top seller in Australia.

Interest has also been shown in a range of Chinese dim-sum snacks which can be prepared behind the bar and which the makers hope will be offered at the pub to those who normally stop on the way home for a Chinese takeaway.

Among the more traditional cheeses, pork pies and frozen fish nibbles is the Clearbeer electronic beer line equipment which, its makers say, can add 2 per cent to a pump's profits.

Usual high standards, but for just one more week, unusually low prices

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And now that the nights are drawing in, why not take advantage of the wonderful lighting promotion which also offers favourable prices on the new season's range.

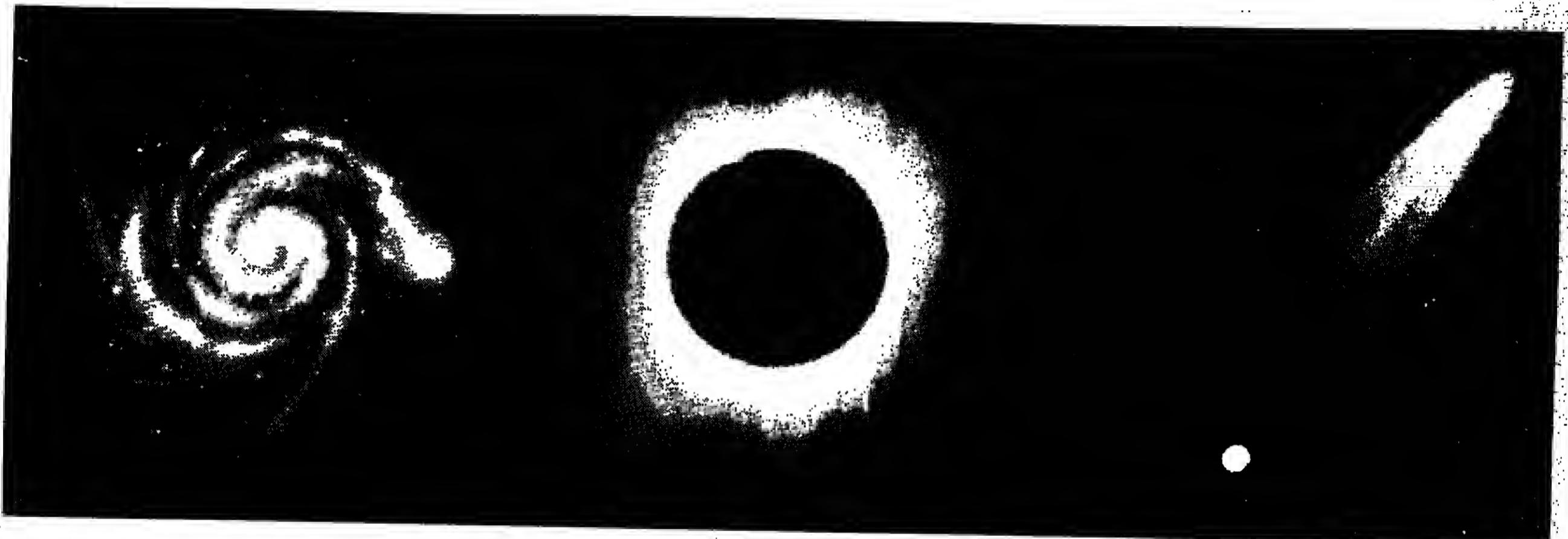
But you'll have to hurry. All good things have to come to an end, and these offers are only available until Saturday 19th October.

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Lack of care blamed for suicide at Brixton jail

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HOME Office suicide prevention guidelines should be implemented immediately at Brixton prison, a coroner said yesterday after a jury concluded that lack of care had led to the hanging of an inmate at the south London jail.

The lack of care verdict was returned by a majority of 24 to one by jurors at Southwark coroner's court. It was the third verdict of its kind to be delivered this year after the suicide of a prisoner at Brixton, which has one of the worst suicide records in the jail network.

Patrick O'Grady, aged 24, an acute depressive, was found hanging by a bedsheet from a cell window after he had been kept alone for a month in a "strip cell" at the jail's notorious psychiatric F wing. He had been examined by eight doctors during his stay at Brixton but the consensus had been that he should not be moved to the hospital ward where he would have had more company and greater freedom of movement.

Query on town halls league

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

LEAGUE tables of local authorities, promised by the government under its citizen's charter plan, should be published only with a warning about their validity, the Audit Commission will tell ministers.

Michael Heseltine, the environment minister, yesterday renewed the government's pledge to "name names" on councils' performance, but the commission, which would draw up the tables, says that the figures should not be taken as the final word.

Some senior officials believe that it may be impossible to produce league tables with the accuracy the government wants. They say that it should be fairly easy to compare the way in which councils provide specific services, but combining figures on individual services, such as street cleaning and refuse collection, to give an overall efficiency score for each council will be much more difficult.



On the road to restoration: Ben Simonds-Gooding, an auctioneer, checking over a 1951 2-litre Bristol 401 coupé before it went under the hammer at Millford Farm, near Stalby, Warwickshire, yesterday. Next to it is a 1935 1.5-litre Riley Falcon saloon. They were among a lot of vintage cars that have lain covered in dust and cobwebs for almost two decades after their owner failed to fulfil his dream of restoring them to their former glory. The vehicles, including a 1930 3-

litre Bugatti Type 44 fixed head coupé, and a 1937 1.5-litre Riley Sprite open two-seater, have been described as the most significant treasure trove of unrestored classic cars to be sold for many years. The anonymous owner had stored them in outbuildings that he had specially converted to garages and workshops in the early Seventies. Specialist coach builders, mechanics and panel-beaters worked on the vehicles but a series of disasters, including a storm which destroyed a

Motoring, page 31

Channel 3 bidders to get date

By MELINDA WITSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

INDEPENDENT bidders awaiting the outcome of the Channel 3 licence auction will be told today who they can expect the result.

The Independent Television Commission board meets this morning for what could be its final deliberations in the six-month contest. All 16 independent companies and their challengers will be sent further guidance by fax this afternoon about the method and timing of the final announcement. Most bidders expect the result to be declared next Wednesday.

If the commission does not announce the date of the result today, it could mean anything from a hitch in the paperwork to a decision to invoke the exceptional circumstances clause to award a licence to a lower cash bidder. If the commission decides to consider exceptional circumstances, bidders will be summoned within the next two weeks for consultations.

Leading article, page 17

Student costs vary widely for same subjects

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THERE are wide variations in the costs of educating a university student, according to a series of comparisons by vice-chancellors and the Universities Funding Council.

Some universities are spending three times as much as others for courses in the same subjects. Physical sciences, for example, cost £12,470 per student at Cambridge, but only £3,160 at Bradford, the report shows.

University bureaucracy is just as variable. The London Business School devotes more than 13 per cent of its budget to central administration, while at Manchester University the share is only 3.6 per cent.

The proportion of Oxford's budget spent on administration is shown to be twice that of Cambridge.

The statistics provide a range of performance indicators to show how universities spend their public funds and give those on campus a yardstick to assess their efficiency. The vice-chancellors argue strongly against compiling league tables because so many of the figures are not directly comparable.

Ewan Page, vice-chancellor of Reading University, who chaired the committee that produced the report, said: "Unritical use of these statistics may seriously damage the health of the universities."

The most expensive courses are in education at City University, London. The cost for each of the five students is listed at £72,250, compared with the national average of £3,050. In reality, however, there are the equivalents of 400 students who do not register because they are part-time.

The report shows high drop-out rates on some courses, even though 90 per cent successfully completed

degree in a number of subjects. Only in architecture and combined studies did more than a fifth of students fail to complete the course nationally, but in some cases little more than half were successful. At Glasgow University, only 51 per cent of those taking combined sciences between 1988 and last year left with a degree, while several subjects at the London School of Economics had pass rates below 60 per cent.

The vice-chancellors reported that the overall drop-out rate of 12.8 per cent in 1989-90 remained virtually unchanged in spite of a rise in student numbers.

Research income had doubled in five years, from £12,000 per academic to £24,500.

The statistics are from returns by the 52 universities receiving money from the Universities Funding Council in 1989-90. As a result, Buckingham University, Cranfield Institute of Technology, the Open University and the Royal College of Art are excluded.

■ Late applicants for places at universities, polytechnics and colleges might have to wait until Christmas for their first grant cheques.

Many local authorities have been unable to keep up with the deluge of grant applications from a record number of students starting courses this month.

Awards departments have been working overtime.

The National Union of

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION COSTS

	% spent on administration	% of costs on pay	costs per student
1 Aston	6.5	55	757
2 Bath	5.8	62	513
3 Birmingham	5.9	60	826
4 Bradford	6.0	72	475
5 Bristol	4.3	73	516
6 Brunel	5.8	71	547
7 Cambridge	5.6	72	277
8 City	5.6	64	589
9 Durham	4.2	57	393
10 East Anglia	6.0	74	480
11 Essex	6.3	63	525
12 Exeter	4.7	76	355
13 Hull	6.6	70	406
14 Keele	5.7	72	449
15 Kent	5.5	68	541
16 Lancaster	5.4	79	401
17 Leeds	5.0	65	579
18 Leicester	5.5	53	553
19 Liverpool	5.1	73	559
20 London Bus Sch	13.1	56	3486
21 London	6.4	74	980
22 Birbeck	5.9	65	715
23 Imperial	4.7	67	852
24 Kings	6.0	74	687
25 L.S.E.	9.7	68	895
26 Mary & West	6.9	75	538
27 R.Hol & Bedford	5.8	82	490
28 Univ Coll	5.5	77	801
29 Loughborough	4.2	65	416
30 Salford	5.4	77	471
31 Sheffield	5.3	73	518
32 Southampton	4.4	75	493
33 Surrey	5.0	72	508
34 Sussex	5.5	76	438
35 Warwick	5.8	49	608
36 York	4.7	63	438
37 Aberystwyth	4.8	75	358
38 Bangor	4.8	79	393
39 UWC Cardiff	4.9	70	363
40 Lampeter	7.9	62	481
41 Swansea	4.1	76	300
42 U.W.Col Med	4.3	72	970
43 Aberdeen	5.7	69	549
44 Dundee	4.7	75	507
45 Edinburgh	4.3	69	548
46 Glasgow	3.7	69	385
47 Heriot-Watt	5.2	70	546
48 St Andrews	6.2	76	497
49 Stirling	5.2	73	442
50 Strathclyde	5.6	70	503
51 Belfast	5.2	75	447
52 Ulster	6.6	76	5140

Students said that the perennial problem of late payment of grants was worse this year. "We have every sympathy with the hard-pressed people administering awards but it is causing some hardship," the union said. Although most returning students and those who applied early

should have received their first grant instalments, some authorities said that they were still dealing with a late rush of applications.

University management statistics and performance indicators in the UK. (Universities Statistical Record, PO Box 130, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3SE.)

Paper pays damages to Daley Thompson

By RAY CLANCY

DALEY Thompson, the decathlon world record holder and former double Olympic champion, accepted undisclosed damages from *The Sunday Telegraph* yesterday over an article that suggested he took performance enhancing drugs during training in the United States.

Geoffrey Bindman, told the High Court in London that a report in the newspaper on April 7 noted that his client did much of his training in California, where anabolic steroids were used by athletes. It went on to suggest that his achievements were of such a high order that they would have been impossible had he not been aided by "the going technology".

Mr Bindman said there was no truth whatsoever in the suggestion that Thompson had ever taken anabolic steroids or any other drugs to enhance his performance.

James Price, for the newspaper, said it regretted that the article conveyed such a meaning. Thompson's success was due to his own efforts and the paper had not intended to suggest otherwise. It agreed to pay Thompson's costs.

Holder leads women's chess

Game seven of the women's world chess championship between the Chinese challenger Xie Jun, aged 20, and the Georgian title holder, Maya Chiburdanidze, aged 30, resulted in yet another skirmish in the Ruy Lopez opening. The game was drawn after 19 moves and Chiburdanidze leads by four points to three. The match in Manila is for the best of 16 games.

In the world cup tournament in Reykjavik, the lead is shared by the former world champion, Anatoly Karpov, and his compatriot, the Russian grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk. The two Britons, Jon Speelman and Murray Chandler, grandmasters, are in the middle of the field.

Insiders only

The city-owned public telephone service at Hull, Humberside, the only one of its kind in the country, began charging outsiders 37p plus VAT for directory enquiries yesterday, because so many people from other towns were taking advantage of its free service. Blind and partially sighted outsiders can call on a concessionary number. The service remains free to local subscribers.

Arts cash fears

The Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts has attacked a European Commission proposal to restrict tobacco sponsorship, saying it could threaten many valued arts events. The association said: "Arts organisations are quite capable of deciding whether or not it is appropriate to accept certain forms of sponsorship, without any regulation being imposed upon them."

Siege man held

A north London man who kept armed police at bay for six hours in a siege yesterday was last night being questioned by detectives. The siege, at a house in Holloway, began when detectives from Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch went to the address after receiving information about weapons. A second man, from Stoke Newington, north London, was also being questioned.

Bishop may face huge costs

By RUTH GLEDSHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Church Commissioners and the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, will have to wait at least a week to hear who is the victor of their High Court battle.

The bishop, who is making no comment until Lord Justice Nicholls, the vice-chancellor, gives his judgment, faces costs of many thousands of pounds if the case goes against him.

The Oxford diocese is out funding its bishop. He has obtained guarantees of more than £25,000 from members of the public who support his cause.

The bishop's case was that

the commissioners, in the investment and management of more than £2.4 billion of Church of England assets, were prepared to take ethical considerations into account only when they did not jeopardise prudent financial management.

The bishop, supported by the Ven Michael Bourke, Archdeacon of Bedfordshire, and Canon William Whiffen, of the Christian Ethical Investment Group, argued that the commissioners owed their undivided loyalty to promoting Christianity through the church, even at the risk of financial loss.

CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF NATURE

EAU DE TOILETTE POUR HOMME



Appointed to Oxford in 1987, the bishop went ahead with his action despite being urged by many friends not to do so. The commissioners already avoid companies whose main business is armaments, alcohol, gambling, newspapers or tobacco.

Closely friends of the bishop deny that his action has cost him promotion in the church.

One said: "There have been comments that he has put his

prospects for promotion behind him. But there are a few

on the bench of bishops who

would say privately that it was

about time the commissioners

were challenged on this."

The most expensive courses are in education at City University, London. The cost for each of the five students is listed at £72,250, compared with the national average of £3,050. In reality, however, there are the equivalents of

400 students who do not register because they are part-time.

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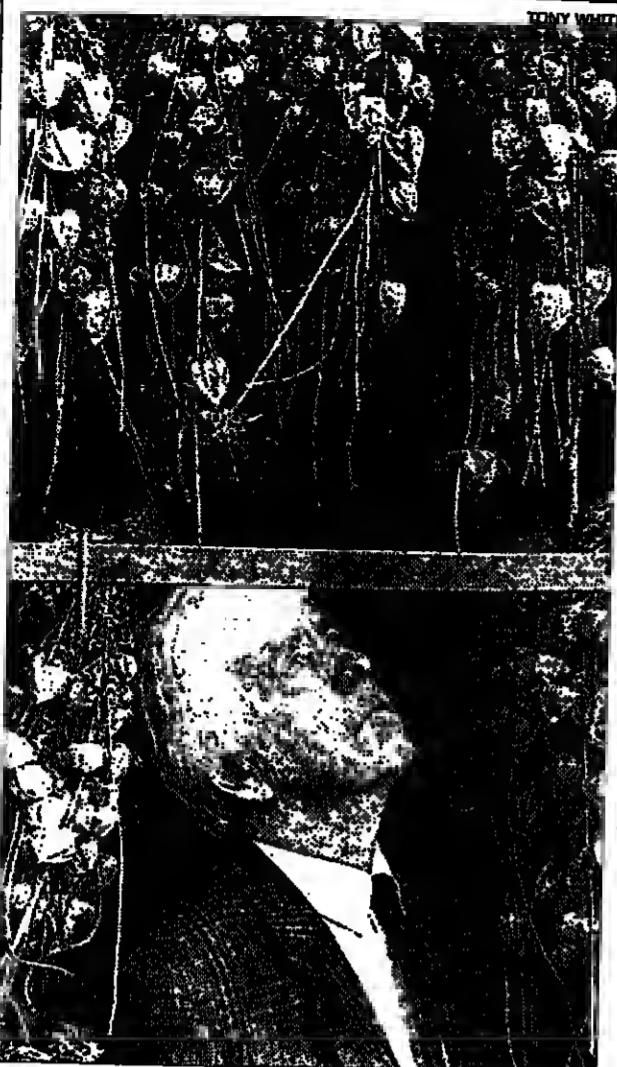
cent successfully completed

degree in a number of subjects.

Only in architecture and

combined studies did more than a fifth of students fail to complete the course nationally, but in some cases little more than half were successful. At

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Looking up: Mr Alexander among his dried flowers

Gamble grew into a farming success

IN THE autumn of 1891, James Alexander, a 54-year-old smallholder in Renfrewshire, decided to move south with his wife, Jane, their four children, 20 Ayrshire cows, one bull and an assortment of milking stools, pails and churns to take up the vacant tenancy of a 102-acre farm at Eynsford, Kent, at a rent of £150 a year.

A hundred years on, as many farmers bewail falling incomes and shrinking prospects, the third and fourth generations of the dynasty established by that Scottish migrant preside over 1,970 acres of profitable arable and grazing land, supporting 420 dairy and beef cattle and producing cereals, oilseed rape, apples, hops and dried flowers.

The flowers are the family's latest venture, introduced in the past five years, but already bringing in more money than anything else. Some 60 species of flowers and grasses are grown on 30 acres, cut by hand between June and September and dried in high-temperature kilns. The demand has exceeded all expectations.

William Alexander, aged 67, the grandson of James, has written a book chronic-

A hundred years ago farmers had to take chances to survive. With subsidy cuts in the offing that is still true today, writes Michael Hornsby

icing this century of farming survival and expansion. It is to be lauched on Tuesday at the National Farmers' Union in Knightsbridge, central London, in the presence of John Gummer, the agriculture minister, whose pet theme is the need for farmers to diversify.

A hundred years ago, as now, agriculture was in turmoil. From the early 1870s an influx of cheap grain, chiefly from the United States, had forced many cereal growers out of business, creating openings for enterprising livestock farmers able to benefit from cheaper feedstuff. James Alexander was one of many Scottish farmers who settled in Kent and Essex at the time.

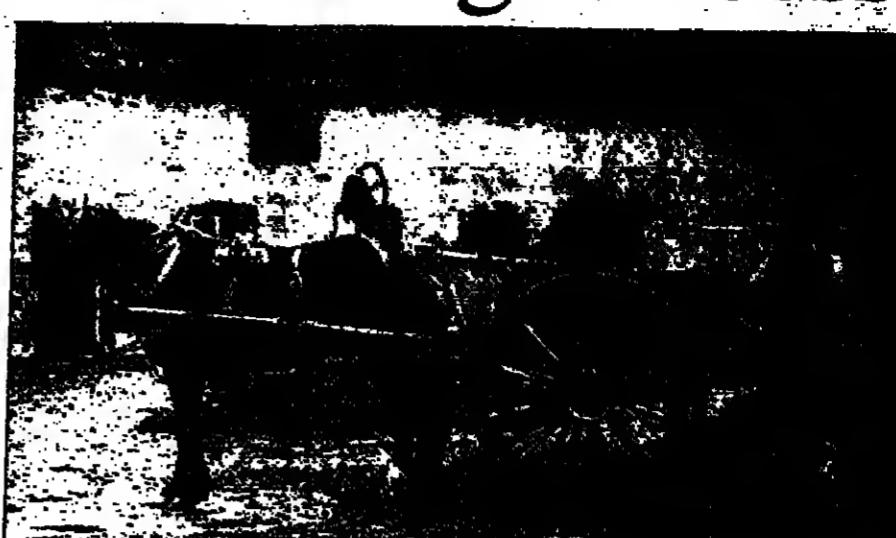
"Considering he was already in his fifties, my grandfather took quite a gamble," Mr Alexander said yesterday. "He saw the potential of being situated so

close to the expanding urban market of London. If today's farmers are going to survive the subsidy cuts that are in the offing, they will have to take chances too, and be ready to seize new opportunities."

In 1908, Mr Alexander's father, also called William, took over the Eynsford farm and began a process of renting and buying more land that has continued almost to the present day. The family's holdings gradually expanded to absorb a dozen farms and now stretch across the valley of the River Darent from Farningham in the north to Shoreham in the south.

Rising demand for home-grown food during the first world war pushed up the prices of milk, cereals, cabbages and potatoes, creating enough surplus income for Mr Alexander's father to make his first land purchase in 1917. The dairy herd was increased and a milk round started. Further acquisitions of land in the Twenties and Thirties added hops and apple orchards. A caterpillar-track tractor, fuelled by a mixture of petrol and paraffin, was bought in 1937.

At this point the story of the farming Alexanders



Making a pile: a dung cart being loaded at the Alexanders' farm in the Thirties

might have come to an abrupt end. "There were plans for siting a new airport for London at Hulberry, near Lullingstone, and that would effectively have put an end to farming in this area," Mr Alexander said. "But then the second world war intervened and the developers later switched their interest to Heathrow."

The Luftwaffe seemed only a minor threat by comparison. "We were on the direct bombing route to

London and there was considerable damage to buildings and animals. We slept every night for more than a year in a dug-out in the garden. At the climax of the Battle of Britain, a Dornier bomber was shot down over Castle Farm at Shoreham."

Peacetime brought new challenges. "After the war, mechanisation was the watchword, like computerisation today. We bought our first combine harvester in 1948. Up until then, we



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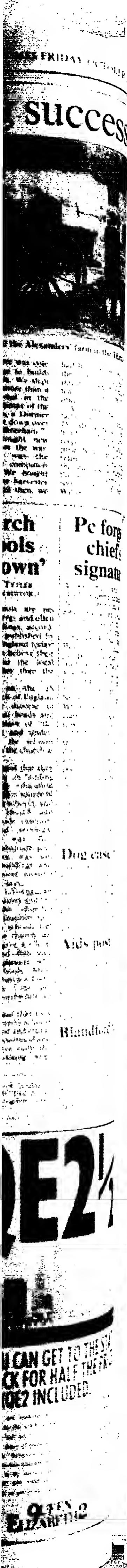
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Never underestimate the Conservative instinct for survival



'Maude: welcome for a future star'

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Tory survival instinct and the party's ability to exert collective self-discipline should never be underestimated. On its third day the conference in Blackpool suddenly remembered that there was an election to fight. It developed a herd instinct and a coherence that had been lacking. Suddenly the Tory team began to look solid again.

By confounding back to their bosom the old conference darling Michael Heseltine the Tory representatives showed that the emotional greeting of Margaret Thatcher the day before had been

a thank you for the glorious past, not an invitation to destabilise the party in future with enthusiastic backseat driving. If there were hard-core Thatcherites who had wanted to give Mr Heseltine the bird for launching the challenge that brought her down, they had rediscovered the discipline to sit on their hands until an election.

Conservative nerve returned visibly as William Waldegrave, Mr Heseltine and Tom King won well merited ovations. The environment secretary showed all his old zest, and some of his old disdain for the wearisome boundaries of ministerial territory, giving the conference an electric charge with a rip-roaring attack on

COMMENTARY

Labour that strayed way outside the environment brief.

The conference also gave a welcome to one of the stars of the future. Francis Maude, the man who has to put flesh on the prime minister's citizen's charter, gave us a taste of the practicalities of the new Toryism which are to succeed some of the ideological excitements of the Thatcher years. Lofty commentators, he said, might scoff at concern with delays in driving tests and cones off motorways but conservatives did not. "It is the business of govern-

ment to take on the problems that dog people's everyday lives".

Not quite the heady combat promised by Mr Heseltine, or even the passion of Mr Waldegrave. But there might be more votes in it all the same.

But it was Mr Waldegrave who was the revelation. Leading on the subject which has seen Labour constantly force the government on the defensive, it would have been an achievement for him merely to come through. The health secretary was speaking too against the background of a whispering campaign suggesting it was time for someone else to be given his job.

The conference, clearly reckon-

ing that he has been the victim of unscrupulous Labour propaganda, would have given him a sympathy ovation anyway, just as Neil Kinnock the week before would have been accorded one for reading out the Samoa telephone directory because his conference wanted to hit back at the tabloid character assassins.

But sympathy ovations don't silence the whispers. Mr Waldegrave did, by winning a genuine tribute for a sharp and combative defence of Tory policies. He was full of moral outrage at the accusations being levelled against the Tory health record. There is no substitute for passion and there was nothing academic about

this speech. It could be the making of Mr Waldegrave.

Whether or not he and the prime minister will be able to nail what they call the "Labour lie" alleging Tory ambitions to "privatise" the health service is questionable. There remains considerable public confusion about the differences between privatisation and compulsory tendering.

The other well deserved ovation yesterday came for Tom King. The defence secretary had an empathy for the representatives who demonstrated their concern about the effect of "peace dividend" defence cuts on famous old regiments.

Forgiven Heseltine once more his party's darling

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative party yesterday forgave Michael Heseltine, less than a year after he forced the contest which ended Margaret Thatcher's 11 year reign.

He was rapturously received after a conference speech in which he strongly criticised Labour's record in local government and pledged legislation to prevent councillors who refused to pay their poll tax from voting at levels of local taxes.

In his first conference speech after six years in the political wilderness, the environment secretary gave a virtuous performance. Although many in the party are wary of Mr Heseltine because of the role he played in the

COMMENTARY

overthrow of Mrs Thatcher, he demonstrated yesterday that among the present cabinet he is unequalled in his ability to rouse the faithful.

Mr Heseltine badly needed to win back the affection of the rank and file. He did so with a speech calculated to delight the front soldiers who have had little to cheer about since the conference opened. Mr Heseltine delivered a frontal attack on the opposition and a pledge that the Conservatives would "take the Labour party apart" at the next general election.

With Sir Geoffrey Howe and Edward Heath on the platform to witness his return to the scene of past triumphs, Mr Heseltine was interrupted by applause 27 times - by the same audience which, 24 hours earlier, had cheered Mrs Thatcher emotionally.

He delighted the conference with his announcement of penalties for councillors. The measure will be included in legislation creating the council tax and will bar councillors who refuse to pay it from voting on matters affecting the level of the local charge. "What community ethic can it be for Labour councillors to inflate local bills which they then refuse to pay themselves? It's worse that that, they then expect their constituents to pay on their behalf," he said.

Mr Heseltine also announced the appointment of consultants to investigate the development potential of acres of land stretching along both banks of the Thames east



Tory cheer: William Waldegrave after his speech that delighted representatives at Blackpool yesterday

Contemptuous Waldegrave rejects Labour health 'scare' stories

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

COMMENTARY

THE Conservative party closed ranks behind William Waldegrave yesterday as he mounted a spirited defence of the national health service reform and announced a written "constitution" for the service cushioning the right to free treatment.

Activists gave the embattled health secretary a three-minute standing ovation at the party's annual conference in Blackpool after he had contemptuously dismissed Labour's "scare" stories and pledged that there would be no slackening in the pace of the reforms.

He said that as part of the patient's charter he would be bringing forward "ten commandments" for the health service. The most important would guarantee "equal access to free health care throughout the country for everybody, regardless of means".

He also confirmed that he was setting up an enquiry team to report on London's health problems. However, he made no direct mention of his leaked plans to freeze opting out in the capital. They have prompted politically damaging suggestions that the government was retreating from the reforms in the face of Opposition pressure.

With his commitment to the reforms being questioned

care, personal service, access to medical records, jargon-free consultations, a maximum wait of two years for surgery, timed outpatient appointments, the care of a named nurse or midwife on admission to hospital, simple complaints procedures, league tables of hospitals' performance and targets for outpatient appointments.

The health secretary believes that Labour leaders have overreached themselves by trumpeting their privatisa-

tion charge and that their political credibility can be dentred across the board by exposing their claims as completely false.

He told representatives that it was time to lay to rest the privatisation scare story once and for all. It was false and Labour knew it, but they were peddling it because they wanted deliberately to frighten some of the most vulnerable people in society.

Peter Riddell, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Tax revolt action likely to fall flat

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine's attempt to disfranchise councillors who refuse to pay their local tax bills may fall flat because most poll tax rebels intend to pay the council tax.

It is also doubtful if the announcement represents an important change in the law, because at least one council will come next week when he unveils the second wave of health service trust hospitals and later in the month he will make no direct mention of his leaked plans to freeze opting out in the capital. The outcome of the enquiry will come with the trusts announcement. The charter will contain the rest of the health secretary's commandments. These are likely to include rights to high quality

care, personal service, access to medical records, jargon-free consultations, a maximum wait of two years for surgery, timed outpatient appointments, the care of a named nurse or midwife on admission to hospital, simple complaints procedures, league tables of hospitals' performance and targets for outpatient appointments.

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Peter Riddell, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Speech 'failed to address problems'

THE health secretary's speech came under attack from health service organisations and the Labour party for failing to address the problem of underfunding in the NHS.

The Royal College of Nursing welcomed Mr Waldegrave's commitment to nurse prescribing and his endorsement of the principle of equal access to free health care.

However Christine Hancock, the college's general secretary, said nurses were concerned about the underfunding of the service "and the secretary of state had nothing to say about that".

The British Medical Association said that it regretted that the government had spent

HEALTH

f300 million introducing the reforms "without assessing whether the changes would work". Calling for a national enquiry into the health service, John Chawner, chairman of the BMA consultants' committee, said the London commission that Mr Waldegrave had announced was a "vacant admission that the market system is not an overall solution to the problems".

Hector MacKenzie, general secretary of the health service union, Coshc, dismissed Mr Waldegrave's speech as "strong on political smears and weak on prescriptions".

With his commitment to the reforms being questioned

and with two in three voters saying that they believe Labour's claim that the Tories intend to privatise the health service, Mr Waldegrave faced the biggest test of his political career as he set out to "nail" his critics' charges.

The rousing reception given to his speech, in which he said there had to be something "truly sick" in the way Labour were angling for votes by frightening the most vulnerable people, put paid to the questions being raised about his cabinet future.

The health secretary has bought himself some time to mount a fightback against Labour's offensive, which has undermined support for the Tories over the past few weeks. The second stage will come next week when he unveils the second wave of health service trust hospitals and later in the month he will make no direct mention of his leaked plans to freeze opting out in the capital. The outcome of the enquiry will come with the trusts announcement. The charter will contain the rest of the health secretary's commandments. These are likely to include rights to high quality

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The health secretary believes that Labour leaders have overreached themselves by trumpeting their privatisa-

CONFERENCE DIARY

Applause for the unknown star

CONFERENCE

Peter Lilley was one of the

more unlikely stars of

the conference yesterday,

turning even his derisory 5

per cent Gallup recognition

rating to his advantage. "A

little over a year ago I was a

Treasury minister, unknown

outside the City of

London. Now I'm a cabinet

minister - unknown

throughout the United

Kingdom," was his way of

breaking the ice as he re-

plied to the industry debate.

But Mr Lilley could afford

to laugh off his reputa-

tion as the cabinet's

invisible man. His speech

was accompanied by the

release of a glossy pamphlet

entitled *The government's*

Industrial strategy. The

fact that the paper slipped out

from Tory Central Office

and not his Whitehall

department marked one

innovation. The other was

that for the first time in a

decade, the Tories are no

longer approaching the fac-

tory gate with both hands

tied behind their backs. As

one former adviser to Lord

Major's Britain of the

Nineties.

"I want to say a final

farewell to the old attitude,

the men from the ministry

attitude, that treats the customer

as an inconvenient after-

thought. There is no place for

grudging, surly service, for

petty officialdom, in John

Major's Britain of the

Nineties."

Debates today

The conference ends today

with John Major's speech

(2.25). This morning there are

debates on a balanced motion

on the family (9.30) and on

party policy and organisation

(10.30).

Right rock coast

Newton verdict

Lion attack

Surrender fear return

Speech, uncharacteristically

larded with jokes, earned

enthusiastic cheers and a

standing ovation. He evoked

warm support by his attacks

on Labour, whose inter-

ventionist industrial policy he

called "hands-on just like the

Boston strangler". Labour's

change of lipstick to pale pink

made the socialist kiss no

Right-wingers rock Israeli coalition

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

SERIOUS cracks began to emerge in the Israeli coalition government yesterday as right-wing members vowed to continue disruptive action, in an effort to undermine Israel's participation in the United States peace initiative.

The campaign centred on a ramshackle Arab building in the east Jerusalem Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan, beside the tombs of King David and King Solomon. Four members of the Knesset prepared to spend their second night there with Jewish settlers, in a confrontation with the police that is calculated to embarrass Israeli leaders during the visit to Jerusalem by



Aquino's vision

Manila — President Aquino (above) yesterday signed a law loosening control by the central government in Manila over the Philippines' 73 provinces which include more than 7,000 islands.

"It establishes the vision of a Filipino nation of self-reliant communities," she said. The law would give local governments up to 40 per cent of tax revenues to deliver basic local services. (Reuters)

Newton verdict

Oakland, California — Tyrone Robinson, aged 27, was convicted here of murdering Huey Newton, the co-founder of Black Panthers, the radical black liberation group, to impress gang members and win a drug-dealing franchise. Robinson admitted shooting Newton in 1989 but claimed Newton had fired first. (AP)

\$181m for UN

New York — The United States gave the United Nations a cheque for \$181 million (£106 million). It owes half a billion dollars in dues to the UN's budget after falling behind in payments during the Reagan presidency in protest against some UN activities and what was described as administrative waste. (Reuters)

Lion attack

Manchester, New Hampshire — An American model who was posing with a lion for a photograph was injured when it suddenly took her head in its jaws. Shannon Audley, aged 23, suffered cuts to her head and back. She was said later to be doing well after medical treatment. (AP)

Surrendered troops fear return to Iraq

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SEVERAL thousand Iraqi last allied troops, meanwhile, pulled out of Silopi in south-east Turkey yesterday after a six-month mission to protect Kurds in northern Iraq.

American, British and French combat and reconnaissance planes based at the southern Turkish base of Incirlik will continue to patrol northern Iraqi air space to deter Saddam from resuming full-scale attacks on the Kurds. The 38 American soldiers hoisting kitbags onto buses were the last of an allied force of 2,500 troops which stayed on as a deterrent after Western troops left northern Iraq in June. "We have done what we came to do," said Lieutenant-Colonel David Roser of the US Air Force, as heavy equipment was loaded on to lorries.

A senior American military official said that the ceasefire in the Sulaymaniyah region appeared to be holding yesterday. Turkish warplanes and helicopters have launched a massive operation in south-eastern Turkey along the Iraqi border in pursuit of Kurdish guerrillas, officials said yesterday.

The prisoners say they are subject to a fine and three years in jail if they return without their weapons. The Iraqi troops being held at PUK headquarters, who totalled more than 150, said they were being well treated.

Recent engagements between Iraqi troops and Kurdish guerrillas have produced large numbers of Iraqi prisoners, including up to 4,000 captured in the past week. The

New witnesses to testify against Judge Thomas

By PETER STOTHARD IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TWO witnesses are expected to testify that Anita Hill confided allegations of sexual harassment when the Senate judiciary committee opens new hearings on the Supreme Court nomination of Clarence Thomas.

President Bush's nomination of Judge Thomas to replace the liberal Thurgood Marshall, has been threatened by revelations of Professor Hill's allegations. Both Judge Thomas and Professor Hill, of Oklahoma university, will testify before the committee when it meets today to assess the allegations that forced a week's delay in the Senate confirmation vote.

"Breaking away from America will be like divorcing your wife," he explained. "Although it will be unpleasant — America provides 6 per cent of our gross national product — we cannot live with somebody who keeps attacking us in the Senate confirmation vote."

His comments were directed at the Bush administration's handling of the proposed peace conference scheduled for later this month, which Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, has said he will attend. Right-wingers in his government claimed, however, that this will become a kangaroo court, where the Jewish state will be forced to give up the territories it occupied in 1967 during the six-day war.

"The nearer we approach Baker's visit next week and the negotiations planned for the end of this month, the more extremists on both the Israeli and Arab sides will try to derail the process," a senior Israeli government source predicted yesterday, as he commented on the settlement controversy.

Although leading ministers in favour of the peace conference such as David Levy, the foreign minister, and Dan Meridor, the justice minister, have spoken out against the actions of the right-wingers, and in particular the timing of the Silwan operation, it has still become a rallying point for Ariel Sharon, the maverick housing minister. Mr Sharon announced on Wednesday night that he planned to go one step further and challenge Mr Shamir for the leadership.

"I will run," Mr Sharon vowed in a television interview. "If I want something I achieve it." Referring to the peace conference, he added: "Israel has not presented any demands. It has in principle accepted pre-conditions. We have surrendered in principle all our positions... this scares me."

Although the former defence minister, his supporters in the ruling Likud party and the three right-wing coalition parties represent only a handful of seats in the government, his warning of a challenge to the leadership is expected to make Mr Shamir's approach to the American-sponsored peace conference even more cautious than it has already been.

"I will obviously run, based on the fact that I can carry out the correct policy to achieve peace — because I believe we can arrive at peace — carry out a correct defence policy to return security to the life of Jews in Israel and carry out a correct immigration policy," Mr Sharon said.

sexually harassed when she worked with Judge Thomas.

In televised hearings whose subject matter has knocked Washington politics sideways over the past remarkable week, Judge Thomas will have to reply to allegations from Professor Hill, his former personal assistant, that he discussed pornographic films with her after she had refused his invitations and advances. Judge Thomas has already denied the charges. Democratic senator, Patrick Leahy, a member of the judiciary committee, promised "tough and probing questions" of the charges to see "who is telling the truth".

Following detailed negotiations between Judge Thomas's supporters and opponents in the Senate, the nominee will appear at the end of the hearing after testimony has already been heard by Professor Hill, and those who will allegedly corroborate her charges. Judge Thomas is

said to be planning to say as little as possible about the alleged events. His advisers have released telephone records which purport to show that Professor Hill maintained cordial relations with her former boss long after the time that he is supposed to have put sexual pressure on her.

The White House was yesterday attempting to stay out of the furor in which the character of Judge Thomas, the hidden extent of sexual harassment and the method of confirming presidential appointments have been confused.

Mr Bush, who saw Judge Thomas privately yesterday, said nothing more yesterday. Although the administration is still putting on a confident face about its nominee, new names are being prepared in case the nomination fails. "The president is prepared to let the system work," a spokesman said.

Sexual judgment, page 16



Days of judgment: Judge Thomas outside his home in Alexandria, Virginia, yesterday

Biosphere pioneer injured

Oracle, Arizona — One of eight people belonging to the Biosphere experiment in Arizona had the tip of her finger cut off in an accident, and may have to be taken out of the sealed environment, a project official said yesterday.

Jane Poynter, 28, who comes from Surrey and is the Biosphere's farm manager, was injured while operating a rice-hulling machine on Wednesday. The finger was sewn back on by the crew's doctor, Dr Roy Walford, but as the machine had cut through the bone, she may have to be taken out temporarily for specialist surgery. A decision on whether to remove her will be made in the next two or three days.

The crew of eight was sealed into the three-acre glass-enclosed site on September 26. Their intention is to stay inside, without any contact with the outside world for two years. If Ms Poynter were taken out through the airlocks for surgery, it would ruin the experiment to see if humans can run a self-sustaining environment, said the official. Dr Walford will make a decision about the need for surgery during the next few days. (AP)

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OPTIONS
HDD: 200Mb and 300Mb (Desktop), 200Mb, 300Mb, 600Mb and 1200Mb (Tower). 3.5" FDD Option. RAM expansion to 64Mb. VGA Colour option £150 extra.

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Includes Windows 3.0, MS-DOS and Mouse

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Peace conference tries to shore up truce

From GEORGE BROCK IN THE HAGUE AND ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB

THE European Community's fragile Yugoslav peace conference yesterday brought the president of Croatia face to face with the Serbian general whose pilots tried to kill him in last Monday's bombing of Zagreb's presidential offices.

Franjo Tuđman met General Veljko Kadijević and Slobodan Milošević, the Serbian president in The Hague, while the EC tried to shore up a crumbling ceasefire in Croatia itself. EC monitors earlier threatened to pull out completely if there was any further delay in implementing it.

As the three men met in The Hague, under the chairmanship of Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, the EC's peace monitors in Croatia told the federal army and Croatian forces to begin withdrawing from their respective positions in accordance with the agreement reached last Tuesday.

Two convoys of aid were due to arrive in the two heaviest areas of fighting on the Serbo-Croat border yesterday, in a vital test of the ceasefire. But even before their departure reports were coming in of fresh fighting in several areas of Croatia indicating that EC monitors, hoping to visit battlefields, could be heading straight into crossfire. A team of 15 lorries with medical supplies and food, left Zagreb early yesterday on a secret route to the besieged city of Osijek, which is reportedly being used as a dispatch point. Nine more lorries were standing by for an

escort of EC monitors before heading for the nearby town of Vukovar.

Dutch and EC officials remain gloomy about the prospects for peace and contingency planning for both sanctions and armed intervention continued. None of the eight ceasefire agreements have yet solved the problem of which forces are to withdraw to where. By yesterday morning, Serbian army commanders were making clear

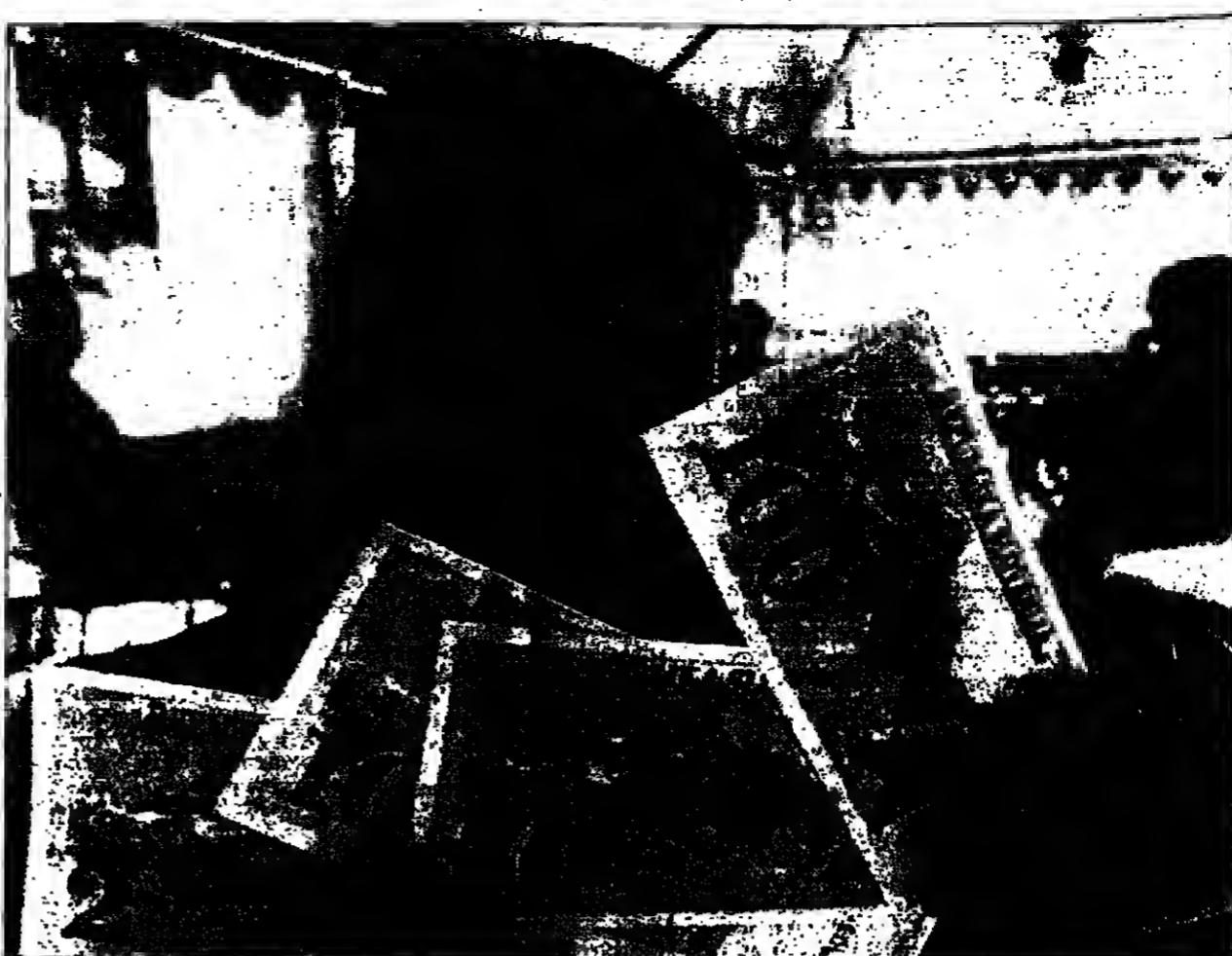
that they did not interpret any agreements as requiring them to leave barracks located in parts of Croatia which have a Serb majority. No lasting settlement is thought likely if Serbian troops remain within the borders of Croatia.

If the EC does not despair of making any true stick, economic sanctions remain more likely than armed intervention – although there is little real enthusiasm for either course of action. Although the agreed conditions for dispatching a military force were never close to being met, earlier pressure for the EC to sound as if it might be close to sending soldiers has slackened. Attentoo has now

turned towards the possibilities of mediation or peacekeeping by the United Nations. Cyrus Vance, acting as the special representative of Javier Pérez de Cuello, the UN secretary-general, is visiting Yugoslavia over the weekend and is expected to extend a session of the EC peace conference on Monday.

One option discussed by senior officials of the 12 EC foreign ministries on Wednesday is for the EC to withdraw its recognition of Yugoslavia. This would be tantamount to endorsing the independence declarations of Slovenia and Croatia but might avoid internal difficulties within the EC. Spain, casting a worried eye on its Basque separatists, has refused recognition so far. Britain, wary of precedents which might be applied to Northern Ireland, has expressed no support for recognition.

Diplomatic sanctions directed against Serbia are more likely than economic ones. The more detailed the discussions of possible economic measures, the larger the practical problems appear to be. The EC can abrogate its trade agreement with the federal government, but that sanction – like an oil embargo – will hit the innocent as well. An oil embargo, EC experts have concluded, will be almost impossible to enforce and is as likely to leave people without heat and light as it is to starve tanks of fuel.



Crisp currency: a woman admiring new Slovene bank notes issued yesterday

Serbian split jeopardises ceasefire

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

VIOLATIONS of the eighth ceasefire agreement in Yugoslavia yesterday were inevitable because the Serbian leadership remains split over its military strategy. While the more cavalier might contemplate a full-scale attack to crush Croatia, the more realistic, including Slobodan Milošević, the Serbian president,

want to seize some vital economic assets in the republic before letting Croatia withdraw from the federation.

Since October 1, the Yugoslav national army, now relying almost exclusively on Serbian conscripts, has made several significant advances. Yet it has failed to take any of

the strategic objectives, such as the Croatian towns in which its garrisons are blockaded. All it has achieved is consolidation of its control over the Serbian ethnic enclaves in Croatia.

The original justification for sending federal troops to Croatia was to separate the Croats who had declared independence and the Serbian minority which felt vulnerable to extreme Croatian nationalism. This internal security role, however, merely became an excuse for switching to a new military strategy, which was to hold on to those areas of Croatia controlled by Serbian guerrillas. But even that strategy was overtaken. As

Croatian defiance intensified

and their military tactics im-

proved, federal army com-

manders resolved to topple

the government in Zagreb.

This became a point of honour for the Serbian commanders.

The likelihood of an all-out

offensive can be dismissed. It

would be doomed to failure.

The Croats seem prepared to

fight to the last man.

The federal forces' goal,

therefore, seems to be limited,

the principal objectives being

to deny the Croats the ability

to recover lost territory,

to secure strategic economic as-

sets, such as the oil pipeline

and petrochemical plants,

and to secure a negotiating

advantage in the event of a

real ceasefire agreement.

PARIS NOTEBOOK by Philip Jacobson

Prized words that few read

At the last concours, about 1,500 literary prizes were on offer in France, a selection greatly outnumbering the variety of domestic cheeses available. The Prix Goncourt, awarded every November, remains undoubtedly the most coveted, despite the measly 50 francs (£5) it pays to winners. By most reckonings, the award can boost sales by anything from 50,000 to 500,000 copies, which helps to explain why publishers are said to urge fancied authors to turn down other awards for fear of compromising their chance of a Goncourt.

Fair enough, even if the "talent, boldness and originality" that Edmond de Goncourt sought to encourage among young writers some 90 years ago is not always evident in the jury's selections.

If there is a persistent whiff of favouritism in the overwhelming choice of winners from France's big three publishers – Gallimard, Seuil and Grasset –

what else can be expected when most of the permanent judges are themselves published by one or other of those houses? The industry needs all the help going, because the French are buying fewer and fewer books. Sales of comics have never been healthier.

Êtes-vous tu, Brutus?

Illustration by GED

When Pierre Marion was appointed head of the French counter-espionage service, the minister who got him the job, a close friend for many years, told him: "From now on, I wish you to call me vous." There is a

lesson there somewhere, though foreigners struggling with the infinite subtleties of the correct form of address in France may not find it much help. Even in these more relaxed times, the nuances of when and where to tu and vous can be as baffling as ever, seemingly governed by codes and conventions which the French alone understand.

A linguistic sleuth for *Newsweek* magazine concluded recently that the most rigid barriers are disappearing steadily, especially among the young. In jobs like journalism, public relations and marketing, *tu* is apparently well-established, but the familiar is still resisted in the more starchy levels of the professions and government service. President Mitterrand allows few people to call him *tu* and *theo* never in public. When M Marion first sought to raise the subject of espionage with M Mitterrand, he observed frostily: "Let us move to the next subject."

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Shevardnadze predicts rise of Russia in new union

Edward Shevardnadze tells Charles Bremner in Moscow that steps must be taken quickly to bring about the economic recovery of the country if chaos is to be avoided

Even the mood-swing that has afflicted Russia, with the ephoria after the attempted coup giving way to despair and intimations of disaster, it seems strange to find an authoritative voice predicting the eventual, albeit difficult, birth of a new union from the rubble of the old.

When the voice is that of Edward Shevardnadze, the man who last December averted the world to the danger of a putsch with his abrupt resignation as foreign minister, there are reasons for paying attention.

Mr Shevardnadze cuts a calm figure as he walks into the dress meeting room in the old mansion on Yelizarova Street, which serves as the headquarters for the Foreign Political Association, the think-tank he has founded.

His demeanour is sombre, but the old twinkle still flashes through as he scans the problems, explaining his reasons for hope. His estrangement now over, he is proving these analytical skills again to President Gorbachev as a member of his presidential council and head of the team settling Lithuania's divorce from the former Soviet Union.

Tie is critical, says Mr Shevardnadze, if the nation is to avoid another anti-democratic grab for power. "Already, we are almost living in anarchy. If, in forthcoming days, the questions over the economic

union are not resolved then we are truly heading for chaos," he says. Since the attempted coup, "practically nothing has been done for the real recovery of the economy... If we are going to move at that speed, the people will punish us."

The feeling of drift has been fuelled by the paralysis over the past three weeks of Russia, the giant around whom any future union will inevitably cluster. While Boris Yeltsin, the president, has rested near the Black Sea for two weeks, his lieutenants have squabbled over the spoils from the collapsing empire. Meanwhile, in the Kremlin, Mr Gorbachev has seemed ever more powerless as the republics have engaged in their battle of wills.

Mr Shevardnadze's talk of a popular backlash is shared among democrats. He believes that the "fundamentalists" could succeed in mobilising discontent if living conditions deteriorate further. The next plotters could prove less incompetent. A handful of incidents are already being read as harbingers of wider unrest. On Tuesday, Russian television said a riot over cancelled flights at a Moscow airport and disturbances over food shortages in Perm, suggested that frustration was boiling up and "catalysis" may not be far off.

Aid from the West could

prove vital to the country's survival intact, says Mr Shevardnadze.

Although the squabbling in the Russian leadership seems to be a pernicious diversion from the business of heading off chaos, Mr Shevardnadze sees it as no more than useful rivalry among a group inexperienced in democracy. "They are all one team. It's a healthy argument. If you take them separately they all support President Yeltsin." Russia, he is sure, will emerge to lead a new, loose formation of republics in spite of the present conflicts. The republics would realise that their interests lay in devising a common economic and political space because of shared histories, their shared cultures and spirit, as he puts it.

The alternatives could lead to war if there are disputes over territory, he says. "Without question, Russia will be the most important foundation of the democratic process."

This thinking draws scant sympathy from non-Russians, many of whom see the break-up as a chance to cast off a yoke that was never long before it was communist. In the Ukraine, which is opposed to any political union, it is impossible for a politician to be sufficiently anti-Russian. As the former Georgian party boss and police chief who never showed his demo-



Contemplating the future: although Edward Shevardnadze says that the birth of a new union will be difficult, he believes that there is still room for optimism

cratic streak until he joined Mr Gorbachev, Mr Shevardnadze is viewed with suspicion. In his native Georgia, Mr Shevardnadze's views have earned the fury of President Gamsakhurdia and his nationalist leadership, who have no intention of joining a union with the old colonial power.

The way things look now,

the new Union of Free Sovereign Republics, as Mr

Gorbachev's draft treaty calls it, will be unlikely to encompass more than Russia, the Central Asian republics, Azerbaijan and Belarus. Whoever belongs to it, Mr Shevardnadze says, will have a central authority headed by a president who will act as co-ordinator and organiser. "The president will not wield as much executive power as the president of the United States, or

even France, but it will not be symbolic." On the world stage, the new commonwealth would fill the shoes of the late union, he says.

From the outside, Mr

Gorbachev would seem the ideal man but other names are coming to the fore. One suggestion is that Mr Yeltsin should be head of a Russian-dominated union, with Anatoli Sobchak, the powerful St

Petersburg mayor, as the

new Russian leader. But if the centre is to be a looser co-ordinating force, then Mr Shevardnadze, with his non-Russian background, is an obvious candidate. For the moment, his political ambitions are focused on the Movement for Democratic Reform, which includes Gavril Popov, the Moscow mayor, Mr Sobchak and Aleksandr Yakovlev, Mr Gorbachev's former adviser. It is too early to say whether the movement will grow into a party, Mr Shevardnadze says, but its ambitions are as an inter-union force.

Mr Shevardnadze, who is 63, still has high regard for Mr Gorbachev. "I know I criticised him in the past, but he is the originator of perestroika and I feel that we must all help and support him."

He still believes that Mr Gorbachev's failure to act against the rising ambitions of the hardliners had set the scene for the attempted coup. Instead of taking a back seat during the suppression in the Baltics earlier this year, Mr Gorbachev should have acted. "If he sacked the defence minister when that tiny aeroplane, like a little toy, landed in Red Square, then he should all the more have fired Yazov [Dmitri Yazov, the defence minister and coup plotter] immediately" over the Baltics, he says, laughing at the memory of the aerial exploits of Mathias Rust, the young German pilot.

But, says Mr Shevardnadze before getting up to go, political differences do not end a friendship at their ages.

Spy kept facts from the KGB

Munich — Markus Wolf, the former East German spy master whose communist agents riddled West Germany, said yesterday that his agency never told the KGB all that it discovered.

In his first public appearance in United Germany since returning from exile in Moscow, Herr Wolf, aged 68, was testifying in the trial of four of his former agents charged with espionage. "There was never any order to pass information on to the Soviet or other [Eastern bloc] intelligence services," he told Bavaria's regional high court.

Herr Wolf, who faces espionage charges in Germany for spying on Bonn, was surrounded by television cameras and photographers as he entered the court. (Reuters)

Down to earth

Moscow — An Austrian and a Kazakh cosmonaut have returned after an eight-day trip to Mir, the orbiting Soviet space station. Franz Viehboeck and Toktar Aubakirov landed in Kazakhstan in a Soyuz spacecraft with Anatoli Artsebarsky, who was returning from a five-month stay on Mir. (Reuters)

British regrets

Bonn — Britain's ambassador in Bonn, has written to two German mayors upset by a proposed statue to Sir Arthur Harris, responsible for the bombing of Germany during the second world war. "The government and people of the United Kingdom deeply regret the suffering caused on both sides," he said. (Reuters)

Immigrant action

Germany plans to hold all refugees in camps

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

All refugees entering Germany will be held in camps for a maximum of six weeks, under plans agreed by the four main political parties yesterday. After that they will be expelled unless they can prove their claim for political asylum.

Against the background of continuing violent attacks on hosts for foreigners, the parties decided to introduce tougher, faster measures for vetting asylum seekers, who are arriving at the rate of about 1,000 a day.

While party leaders were appraising the plans, the Bun-

destag was debating and condemning attacks on foreigners while supporting the continuing need to offer asylum to any in danger of persecution. Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, said in a speech in Berlin yesterday evening that political extremism had always brought bad luck to the German people and that the state and society must not weaken in the face of violence.

The plans agreed yesterday are meant to speed up the process of weeding out the economic refugees taking advantage of Germany's open-door asylum policy. At

present only about one in 20 of those arriving is ultimately found to have genuine grounds for claiming asylum, but many of the remainder manage to stay for months and even years while they fight their case through the various legal processes.

Both the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) and the Free Democrats (FDP), junior members of the government coalition, have blocked any amendment to the constitution which would restrict the right to claim asylum.

With the help of 500 extra staff and a centralised computer, the new plan is intended to process every application within a fortnight, giving all those rejected three weeks to appeal, and then just one week in which to leave before being expelled.

To make this streamlined procedure possible, all refugees would be sent to one of 90 camps around the country, many of them in converted army barracks, each with a

Gang attacks Meissen hostel

From IAN MURRAY IN MEISSEN

THE mob arrived at the refugee hostel after sunset. In spite of the wave of attacks on homes or foreigners all over Germany, the raiders achieved complete surprise. There was no police guard, no official of duty and no warning.

The refugees at the hostel in Meissen thought they were safe. Unemployment and boredom, the recruiting grounds for the far right, are less of a problem here than elsewhere. The hostel, in converted factory offices up a tin-track along the Triebisch valley, seemed to be a haven. Unlike other towns in the east, where neo-Nazi gangs have struck, Meissen has a beautiful and lively, if dirty, city centre.

But last week, on the eve of the first anniversary of German unity, the mob gathered. They were all young, many of them obviously still at school, most of them masked, all of them chanting slurs such as, "Foreigners out" and "Germany for the Germans". The refugees, from Vietnam, Bangladesh, Albania, Romania and elsewhere, quickly shut the hostel doors, but a stone smashed a window and the mob burst in.

For nearly an hour about 60 young people ran riot. Eventually ten policemen arrived and had to call for reinforcements. Meissen, like all cities in the east, is short of officers. Peter Trentzsch, the German who manages the home, is shocked by the violence. "Leisevo people are not like thi," he said. "This would never have happened under Hecker [Erich Hecker, the former East German leader]. This sort of thing has never happened in Meissen." He believes that

some of those who attacked his hostel came from other cities such as Dresden. The gang had gathered in the town after an inaugural meeting called by a branch of the far right German Peoples' Union (DVU), that had just won seats in the Bremen state parliamentary elections.

"A lot of them were only 13 or 14," Herr Trentzsch said. "Young boys like that get together because they feel strong in a group. They could just as easily have been throwing stones for the far left." Herr Trentzsch insists that the doors of the hostel must remain open. "We must not give way to violence."

The community is rallying round. Frau Renate Koch, a councillor, has promised that "it is our social and moral duty to see that we are not destroyed by these radicals". But the refugees' confidence has been shattered; many refuse to go out.

The attack suggests right-wing troublemakers are becoming more organised, and are exploiting the shortage of police.

Heinz Egert, who took over as Saxony's interior minister only last week, has already asked for extra police help from the West.

The Christian Democrats (CDU), who have an overall majority in Saxony, are pressing urgently for a change in the constitution that would exclude a majority of the refugees pouring into Germany at the rate of around 1,700 a day. All-party talks on this subject resumed in Bonn yesterday. Although it seems unlikely that the constitution will be amended, both government and opposition now appear to believe that limiting the number of people coming into the country is the best way of stopping support for the far right.

A spokesman said. (Reuters)

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MUSIC, clothes and boys are the sort of things 14 year olds like Susan are usually most interested in.

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Teaching brings out the best in people.

Kate Muir speaks to the Duke of Devonshire, host of next week's very private Middle East conference

Lending a patrician air at the summit

Decisions, decisions. The life of a duke is not an easy one. A recent concern was: which room? With 175 to choose from at the family seat, which painted ceiling, which set of tapestried pillars, which gilded chandeliers would be the surroundings most conducive to a private Middle East peace conference where Arabs, Jews and British politicians could talk, unobserved and unpressurised?

The eleventh Duke of Devonshire decided on a tennis-court sized drawing room with an excess of mirror on the second floor, and a pleasant aspect over the fountains to the hills of Derbyshire. "We don't want the chairs too uncomfortable, but on the other hand if they're too soft they may nod off," muses the duke, drawing on his expertise in hosting coffee mornings, lectures and horse shows at Chatsworth.

The gathering next week, however, is in a different league. Although hosted by the duke, it is organised by the Next Century Foundation, an alliance of politicians and businessmen which aims to promote peace in the Middle East. The 24 names around the dinner table will include Arab ambassadors, a former Israeli minister, prominent Palestinians, Arab and Jewish industrialists, as well as Dr Garret Fitzgerald, the former Irish prime minister, Peter Shore, the Labour MP, Sir Barney Heyhoe, the Tory MP, Sir Richard Luce, the former arts minister, Lord Balfour, the eminent historian, Merlyn Rees, the former Labour Home Secretary, and David Gore-Booth, a Middle East specialist from the Foreign Office. The Israelis and Palestinians remain anonymous; safer when an Israeli peace campaigner was imprisoned this week for mercy meeting Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader. "The security," confided the duke, "has come as something of a shock."

The duke — full names Andrew Robert Buxton Cavendish — is delighted to be dunked deep into politics again, having dipped in and out of it for so long, as a (former) SDP supporter in the Lords, and earlier as a twice-failed Conservative parliamentary candidate, and a junior minister. "I hope people can come here privately and talk off the record for a couple of days without having to pay attention to their public positions. The point is to show willing, and maybe informal connections made here will bear fruit somewhere else later." He pauses. "And of course we'll give them a good dinner."

Judging by the fresh coffee, homemade biscuits and offer to join the duke for a stiff drink rather early in the day, the hospitality will be generous. His Grace is busy in the study, which he refers to as his sitting room. "I do more sitting than studying, you see." The ceiling, up in the distance, is painted like a minor chapel; there are patterned pillars, paintings on easels where hanging space has run out, and walls of books.

Amid all the grandeur, the duke, despite his guardsman's height, looks built on too small a scale. As



A tenant in the family home: the Duke of Devonshire is proud of having never had to rely on public money for the upkeep of Chatsworth. Instead, 300,000 members of the public tramp through the house every summer

the butler opens the door, the duke's head and neck protrude, like a surprised tortoise, from a throne-like chair. He says his interest in Middle Eastern affairs long predated the peace conference. He used to be president of the Conservative Friends of Israel, and got involved in Manchester's large Jewish community when he was chancellor of the university there in the 1980s. Now, he supports the neutral Next Century Foundation — "A good name, because nothing is going to be achieved overnight."

Politics is nothing new to the duke. In the 1960s, he held various posts in the Commonwealth Office, "which I never would have got except for nepotism by Harold Macmillan, my uncle by marriage". Despite a few Tory appointments, the family was always Whig and then Liberal, but broke with the party over home rule for Ireland. When the duke left the Conservatives for the Social Democrats in 1981, it was largely for "sentimental reasons". Now, on the cross-benches, he takes more interest in foreign affairs. "I really cannot take any part in domestic politics. If you're as rich and privileged as I am you cannot start weighing in about what you think of the National Health Service." He looks slightly depressed. "I suppose . . ." — he waits to pounce on the word — "transport is a reasonable subject one could talk about."

For one of the ruling aristocratic elite, he is humble to the fault. Perhaps it is because he was born a younger son, and never intended for the dukedom. But when his brother was killed in the war, he suddenly became the heir. And Deborah, "Debo", one of the Mitford sisters, who had married him in 1941 with only his officer's pay to look forward to, became the Duchess of Devonshire. At the time she wrote to her sister Diana, then Lady Mosley: "I expect we shall be terribly [sic] poor, but think how nice it will be to have as

long as possible to a reasonable

without anyone to say they must get off the furniture." Now, £121 million richer, the only sight of the Duchess on this visit is of her shooting down the corridor, followed by two of the aforementioned dogs.

This year, the duke and duchess celebrated their golden wedding anniversary and invited 1,000 Derbyshire couples, who had also been married for 50 years, to join them for a cream tea on the Chatsworth lawn. The gesture was typical of the Duke's rampant paternalism. He pays the poll tax for his employees and pensioners who live with their families in a community of 750 in two villages

on the estate, with access to a private nine-hole golf course, tennis court and a swimming pool. It is not surprising that estate workers rarely leave. "That's our luck, the duke says. "There are really marvellous people here. Very high quality, and several families have been here for five generations."

Chatsworth has 300,000 paying visitors in an average summer. "We do very much encourage the public to come here, and they don't have to pay to use the park. It's lovely sitting here and listening to children playing rounders and cricket. I think one would feel very uncomfortable if they weren't there. And you see hardly any litter."

He is proud that not a penny of public money has gone into Chatsworth, which "turned into a charitable trust" prevent the estate being eaten into by death duties. He now rents his 30 private rooms from the trust. When his father died, inheritance tax was 30 per cent, and it was only by selling some of the best Old Masters and later setting up the charity that the house and grounds survived intact. Still, the leftovers of the art collection are not to be sniffed at, with works by da Vinci, Raphael, Rubens and Rembrandt.

The duke works for charities other than his own. At 71, as he becomes increasingly short-sighted, he has taken up the Royal National Institute for the Blind, among others. Sound like a Miss World contestant, he says: "I do it because I so enjoy meeting people." He finds sport crosses conversational barriers with strangers, and says knowing a little bit about the local football team takes the average peer a long way.

This week, the duke's ice-melter concerns Gazza — his life, his injuries, his future. "I do hope he doesn't go the same way as Best. The boy's as daft as a brush, and under all that pressure." He shakes his head despairingly. "What he needs is a good aunt or someone to look after him . . . I say, what about Wales being beaten by Western Samoa?"

Underneath the aura of battiness there lurks a canny businessman, or at least a man with a good accountant. He may sell Old Masters, but at the same time he is quietly building up his private cache of paintings by Lucian Freud and Gwen John. He has six racehorses and, although this year was "appalling", every so often a win on the track buys a few more paintings. Or, more likely, art is traded for horseflesh. He likes the game of chance. The duke once said a word without bookmakers would be as unthinkable as Trafalgar Square without the lions. But then, he can afford to take risks.

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Young views on the box

Winners of Channel 3 franchises will, in part, have children's opinions to thank

Jean Richards would like to invite children, possibly your children, to consider television viewing as "homework". Parents may consider Mrs Richards a dangerous subversive and hope she never knocks on their door but she, or someone very like her, may do just that.

Mrs Richards is a researcher for the Young Viewer's Panel, a body which invites children aged between four and 15 to become television critics, keeping "diaries" of what they do and do not enjoy. And if the opportunity to watch television legitimately is not encouragement enough, the panel also offers children the opportunity of winning £25 in a monthly draw, a quarterly newsletter and an annual competition (this year, there were ten prizes of £15 each).

In the interests of her job Mrs Richards visits 18 houses a day (including Christmas Day) and wears out one pair of shoes a month. Some parents, it is true, do not welcome her into their homes, but not for the reason most might assume. Mrs Richards has been surprised by the number of fathers who have come home during her initial interview with the children (which the mother has agreed to) and booted the question out: "Some are worried that I'm really here to check their television licences," she says. What is she there to do? The purpose of the Young Viewers' Panel, set up five years ago by a research company commissioned by the Broadcasters

A total of 1,000 children are selected from the Royal Mail post code address file. "But if the panel is short, say, of boys in the four to six age group in a certain part of the country, we send interviewers to knock on doors," says Peter Meneer, the head of the BBC's broadcasting research department.

The children who are selected are part of the panel for two years. Once a month they fill in eight or so sheets of multiple choice questions (known as diaries) in order to give their verdict on the children's programmes that have caught their eye during the set week in that month. The Children's Channel, a pan-European station delivering children's programmes 12 hours a day, says the children's television top ten is



The money or the box: children are targeted for surveys and offered the chance of cash prizes

Neighbours, *Coronation Street*, *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles*, *Children's Ward*, *Alphonso Bonzo*, *EastEnders*, *New Adventure Mouse*, *Top of the Pops*, *Byker Grove* and *Wool*. Mrs Richards, from her experience, would agree with *EastEnders* (from age four upwards), *Neighbours*, *Top of the Pops* and the American cartoons, and add to them *Sesame Street*, the new style *Playdays* and detective thrillers (*Inspector Morse*).

Parental comment is not invited in her research but Mrs Richards gets it anyway. "Many complain about bad accents and language on children's programmes and they also moan about unsuitable programmes being screened too early." Children mean about new programmes.

Children under 13 like filling in the forms, says David Hollis, a reporter for BBC broadcasting research. They see it as a "sort of school project". But after that age, apathy sets in and the drop-out rate can be as high as two-thirds before their two-year panel stint is up. Interviewers are now asking some parents for phone numbers so that they can experiment with conducting telephone assessments in areas where there has been a low response rate.

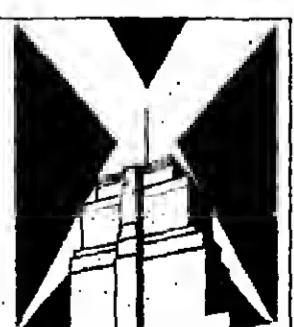
Mr Hollis says that although some older children prefer

monosyllabic responses such as "rubbish" or "great", others express their views better than many adults.

Anna Home, the head of children's programmes for the BBC, admits that the forms "are not a highly scientific way of measuring children's re-

actions although they are a useful aid". But has Ms Home ever done anything drastic to a programme as a result of her team of junior critics? She has to admit she has not.

JANE BIDDER
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Portraits in decadent rouge

From prancing horses to dancing girls, Toulouse-Lautrec captured French life with unrivalled veracity. Richard Cork visits the Hayward Gallery's dynamic retrospective

Soon after the adolescent Toulouse-Lautrec broke both his thigh-bones in successive accidents, he painted a spirited little study of an acrobat woman saddling his horse. With a *brio* quite astonishing in so fledgling an artist, he gave the animal's body a pent-up, quicksilver expectancy. Next straining forward, it scents the air and longs to follow, the other horse already galloping off in a haze of hoof-dust.

Lautrec himself shared this sense of yearning. The more crippled he became by a rare bone disease, the more he viewed the idea of untrammelled movement with frustrated excitement. His congenital disability surely helps to account for the outstanding intensity of the early horse paintings which give the Hayward Gallery retrospective such initial dynamism.

In 1880, when he was still only 16, Lautrec spent a convalescent holiday in Nice. The sight of his father Couot Alphonse driving his mail-coach along the Promenade des Anglais provided an ideal subject, and the vivacity of the four horses is defined with pre-cocous assurance.

No wonder that an equestrian painter, René Princeteau, became his first teacher. Lautrec painted a satirical yet affectionate portrait of his deaf and dumb mentor, palette in hand, and staring at a stabled fox's head on the studio wall. Princeteau, for his part, called the irrepressible Lautrec, "my little monkey", and helped to inspire the most arresting of all his pupil's early paintings. Called *Abduction*, it shows a naked man riding bareback as he claps a Sabin-like woman to his side. But the most mesmeric part of the picture is the horse itself. Charging frantically forward, the animal appears to be flying above the ground. Its front legs are splayed outwards in dramatic diagonal thrusts, as ecstatic as any of the dance movements Lautrec would later delight in capturing at the Moulin Rouge.

Within a year of completing *Abduction*, he decided to cock a snook at the vogue for mythological fantasy. With the help of his fellow-students, Lautrec painted a colossal copy of Puvis de Chavannes's pallid allegory *The Sacred Grove with the Arts and Muses*. The classical figures

The brittle tension in Lautrec's art depends on his ability to pin down the sleaziness as well as the allure of his chosen locale'

in the form of La Gouze, whose skirts burst around her outflung leg with the force of a bomb.

This inflammatory image made Lautrec's reputation as a master of linear economy and instantaneous impact. It also ensured that his signature, brazenly inscribed on the titling floor-boards, would forever be linked with the name of the Moulin Rouge written in triplicate at the top of the poster like a demented chant.

When Lautrec produced a large and ambitious painting of the same subject, though, he disclosed a more ambivalent attitude. Although the design centres on the lithe limbs of a performer in action, he shows a rehearsal rather than the jostling excitement of a night at the dance-hall. The picture's title, *Training the New Girls*, has a ring of Degas. But Lautrec realised that he was dealing in this echoing barn of a space, with a world far less gossamer than the ballet. The top-batted men in the distance have a predatory air, while the woman dominating the foreground in a puce dress is probably a prostitute. Her lowered eyes and stiff, self-conscious detachment dis-

play no interest in the verve of the dancers; she is there for wholly commercial reasons.

The brittle tension in Lautrec's art depends, time and again, on his ability to pin down the sleaziness as well as the allure of his chosen locale. In one picture, the dancer Jane Avril is shown entering the Moulin Rouge. With a limp yellow bag dangling from her arm, and an elaborate yet oddly bedraggled hat, she looks hunched and forlorn. To the exhibit alongside, however, this wan figure has been transformed into an embodiment of acrobatic exuberance. Framed by a fine which flows out of the double bass in the foreground, she lifts her right leg into a high-kicking streak of black against the saffron of her foaming dress.

As Lautrec's involvement with dance flowered into infatuation, so he allowed the performers' clothes to take on a life of their own. Yvette Guilbert singing "Linger, Longer, Loo" is vivacious enough, resting a grinning face on gloved hands clasped coquettishly beneath her chin. But when he paints the discarded gloves aloft, they remain equally expressive — as if Guilbert's long arms still lingered inside them.

The apotheosis of this fascination with clothes arrives with the extended series of prints devoted to

Loie Fuller. At first, in a study executed with *peinture à l'essence*, the dancer's body still plays a major role among what Edmond de Goncourt describes as "a cyclone of veils and a swirl of skirts". But in the lithographs, Fuller shrinks while her draperies expand outwards and upwards in a molten rush of colour.

One particularly captivating version, printed in five colours with a sprinkling of gold powder highlights, gives the airborne veils a magical incandescence in the darkness of the encircling stage.

Even here, though, Lautrec is alive to the vulnerability of the diminutive dancer. As he grew older, and his own body succumbed to a punishing amount of alcohol and syphilis, so he became more conscious of human reality in general. The saddest and most profound painting in the Hayward show is a grand, carefully meditated canvas called *In the Salon at the Rue de Moulin*. Although the maroon carpet, well-upholstered sofa and grandiose columns indicate that a brothel of some luxury is depicted here, the decor cannot alleviate the disconsolate mood. The most prominent prostitute turns toward her neighbour with apparent warmth. But the other woman does

not return her glance. Rigid, she awaits the arrival of her next client in silence. Like all the room's inhabitants, she seems marooned in an awareness of her own isolation.

Lautrec was too well-acquainted with *maisons closes* to pretend that they were anything other than joyless places, and his depictions of them are surely infected by his gathering despair as well. His innate coquettishness faded in the 1890s, leading to a nervous breakdown and three months in a sanatorium. He rallied long enough, in both body and mind, to produce the loveliest of all his works, an oil called *La Modiste*, as fresh and sensuous as a Fragonard. The substance of paint is handled here with a richness which far surpasses the undernourished paint-governed pin-up.

But the respite was brief. Having suffered a severe stroke in August 1901, Lautrec died a month afterwards at the age of 36. Since his lifespan could otherwise have lasted until the second world war or beyond, the loss to European art is difficult to calculate.

• *Toulouse-Lautrec*, sponsored by Pearson, is at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank SE1 (0171-928 8800), daily 10am-6pm (Tues, Wed to 8pm) until January 19.

CLASSICAL MUSIC: ORCHESTRAL PREMIERES

Drama with strings attached

Yet another dismally small audience greeted the BBC Symphony Orchestra for its concert of Haydn, Falla and (presumably the spoiler) Xenakis, with the Spanish conductor Arturo Tamayo. Someone, somewhere seems to be failing to perform a fundamental publicising task. Dare one suggest that minds be concentrated on marketing each concert as an individual event — rather than, as at present, spraying the Tube with posters telling of the whole series?

Xenakis's new concerto

violin piece, *Dox-Ork*, occupied the centre of the programme. Its title apparently means something stringy and something to do with orchestra, and it is a typically colourful, dense, pugnacious and extended explosion of sound, the scene set by loud woodwind clusters and the soloist's microtonal walls.

This violin line sounds like some primeval ululation, while the surrounding and colliding textures, erupting in savage, volcanic spurts, first in one section of the orchestra and then another, lend an

immense dynamic energy to the piece. A catharsis of some kind is reached when a passage of jagged antiphony leads to a sustained chord and a winding-down solo cadenza.

The effect of the piece is dramatic and grand, and the demands made upon the soloist — here the cool and confident Irvine Arditti — are formidable. Yet no one is tempted to ask (as so often with Xenakis) if substance lies behind the grand design.

Around it was Haydn's Symphony No 83 ("The Hen") — which revealed a few ragged edges in the BBC SO's ranks and Tamayo's reluctance to invest the central movements with much colour or rhythmic buoyancy — and the complete ballet music of Manuel de Falla's *The Three-Cornered Hat*, which was invested with the right folkish flavour, enhanced by the slightly husky tones of Christine Cairns. The swing of the final Jota succeeded in bringing a festive air even to this deserted hall.

The previous evening, under the baton of Elgar Howarth, the London Sinfonietta presented two new commissions from German composers within the formidable framework of music by Harrison Birtwistle. Hans-Jürgen von Boese's *Scene*, an energetic coming together and building up of disparate ideas in a whirligig of colours,

rhythmic games and rapid alternations of motion and stasis, impresses through its technique and sheer inventiveness, though it is perhaps over-extended. Indeed, the composer himself admits to an interest in the idea of labyrinth, which of course can go on for ever. His colleague Detlev Müller-Siemens's *Tom-a-Bedlam*, scored for six singers (the London Sinfonietta Voices), wind quintet and string quartet, adventurous sets an anonymous 17th century poem, using some ingeniously evocative, complex sounds that keep the words, as it were, afloat.

Neither work, however, achieved the distilled elegance of Birtwistle's *Four Poems* by Joan Kaplinski, sung by Sarah Leonard, which was receiving its London premiere. Nor did they approach the expressive intensity and eloquence of the same composer's *Ritual Fragment*, which received a particularly fine performance.

STEPHEN PITTITT



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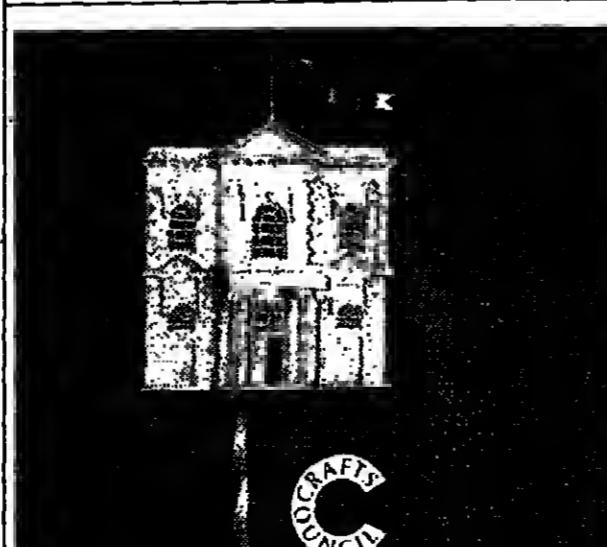
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Grandioso: Xenakis
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STEPHEN PITTITT

ARTS REVIEWS
Theatre, dance,
concert and jazz
Page 20

Master of the Woodblock
10 October-24 November
Hayward Gallery, London SE1
Tickets £5 (£3.50concs, £2 family
ticket) Also admits to Toulouse-
Lautrec Booking on 071-928 8800
(50p booking charge)

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Supported by Monks

RECORDS: JAZZ AND ROCK

A blow by blow battle
Tough Young Tenors: *Alone Together* (Antilles Import ANCD-8765)
King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys: *Better Beware* (Big Bear CD35)

Blanding Jr makes a marvelously unfussy job of Monk's "Ask Me Now"; James Carter takes second place with a series of lush choruses on Billy Strayhorn's "Chelsea Bridge". The 22-year-old evokes shades of Ben Webster. Marcus Roberts, who is the pianist on the session, chimes in with that favourite Ellington device of gently falling arpeggios.

Celebrating the past is also the preoccupation of the Midland septet King Pleasure & The Biscuit Boys, though in this case, on *Better Beware*, the burden is worn very lightly.

A "blue-for-money" live act, the band specialises in knock-about rhythm 'n' blues and jumping jive. Not surprisingly, some of the immediacy is lost in record, but this is an ebullient set all the same, the sort of good-time music which will probably be blasting out at office parties during the run-up to Christmas.

CLIVE DAVIS

Raunchy diversion

John Mellencamp: Whenever We Wanted (Mercury 5101512)
Simply Red: Stars (eastwest 9031-75284-2)
Erasure: Chorus (Mute CD Summ 95)
Supereville: Delirium (Survival 2D 75113)

renewed vigour. Another melodic-produced catalogue of blue-eyed soul songs, it boasts some of the best tunes and grooves that Hucknall has produced since his *Picture Book* debut of 1985. Highlights include the infectious, ringing-piano stomp of "Something Got Me Started" and the winsome chorus of "Your Mirror", although the synthesized twittering in the latter, underpinning the line "even the birds still sing their faithful song" might be laying it on a bit thick.

Erasure's *Chorus* also boasts several good melodies, but there seems to be no advance on their last two outings, and it looks as if keyboardist Vince Clarke — who used to be one of the most restless performers of the Eighties' synth-pop revolution — and singer Andy Bell are content merely to cruise.

Now that synthesizers and drum machines are such old hat, one forgets the confident predictions of ten years ago that "real" guitars and drum kits were destined to become terminally unfashionable.

If anything, it goes the other way, and up in the Western Isles of Scotland, a young Gaelic-speaking band called Capercaille has fashioned a truly fresh sounding album using accordian, bodhran, fiddle and recorder with just a hint of keyboards and guitar. Featuring the beguiling voice of Karen Matheson, *Delirium* is a delightful, shimmering concoction of traditional and Gaelic music, given a modern twist and a funky undercurrent. It deserves a wide hearing.

DAVID SINCLAIR



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Peter Stothard reports from Washington on a dirty campaign to bar Clarence Thomas from the Supreme Court

Geraldine Ferraro, former Democrat vice-presidential candidate, has been recalling how, as an 18-year-old typist she was sexually harassed by her boss. "He used to stand behind me very close and jingle his money," she said this week, "and when he called me into his office at Christmas bonus time, I knew very well what he was trying to do and I quit the job."

Mrs Ferraro has only just recovered from her last visit to the low zones of American politics. In 1984, she was the victim, pursued to ignominious defeat by allegations about her husband's life with the Mafia. Today, as opponents of supreme court nominee Clarence Thomas close in for their kill, she is campaigning to become a New York senator and enthusiastically joining the huntsman's pack.

In an unprecedented televised inquisition today, Judge Thomas must answer allegations from his

former personal assistant that he asked her for "dates" in the early 1980s and that, when she refused, he discussed pornographic movies and the best sexual positions for people and animals. If he cannot answer these charges, his chances of confirmation are slim.

He will not, of course, be able to deny that he was a sexual harasser, for the alleged events happened ten years ago. Anita Hill, his accuser, is now a calm and persuasive professor of law. She has not even characterised Judge Thomas's actions as harassment, which is a criminal offence. She merely wants his "behaviour" to be taken into account.

This is where Mrs Ferraro and her friends come in. The road to today's bizarre hearing began when a pro-abortion lobby heard of the Hill allegations from one of the professor's friends. The senate judiciary committee was tipped off. The judge's opponents, who

Sexual judgment



Hill: sexually harassed?

were patiently waiting for the Democrat senators to trip him up under questioning, were delighted that this extra weapon was in the committee's hands.

By last weekend it was clear that Judge Thomas had revealed nothing about his attitude to abortion. His confirmation seemed secure. But the sexual harassment allegations had been kept secret — at Professor Hill's own request, the senators claimed. Hurriedly they were leaked again, this time to sympathetic journalists. The emphasis was now not only on the events in Clarence Thomas's old Education Department office, but on the failure of the all-male judiciary committee to follow up

just don't get it," rose the cry. Mrs Ferraro and others rummaged through their memories.

As the women's groups marched, there was a nasty sense in senate corridors that something new was happening. This was not the usual Washington game of sexual Space Invaders, routinely played by enemies of such as Jack Kemp, Tom Foley, Chuck Robb and President Bush himself. This was different from the anonymous Senate testimony of "womanising and drunkenness" which helped bar John Tower from the Peoria in 1989.

Smearing has always been the obverse of democratic accountability. The broader the constitu-

ency, the more tempting has smearing become. It may be that few television viewers understand Judge Thomas's theory of natural rights, but everyone understands sex. The "character issue" has become as essential a part of Washington politics as the chicken dinner, although to listen to some of the outrage this week, one would think that the city had never before seen the secret assassin's slime-trail.

The real abnormality in this whole affair may be yet to come. Even if Clarence Thomas is defeated, his successor is likely also to be an opponent of abortion rights. The Roe v Wade judgment which for almost twenty years has protected abortion is highly vulnerable.

Although some analysts have warned that American women might fight for their rights through the ballot box, conventional wisdom has so far decreed that

abortion will never determine a national campaign. This week, a women's issue hit the political surface and the White House did not like the result. It was a shock to see the normally unflappable Senate majority leader, George Mitchell, standing up before his peers like a drunken conductor who has lost his place in the score.

It will be no less extraordinary today when Senator Edward Kennedy, whose pages in the sexual-political history of America are already assured, gets his chance to quiz Judge Thomas about proper behaviour with women.

Will the committee ask about the vintage porn movies? Will the judge reply? Will he even remember? Will she? The scenario has become worthy of Hollywood itself. Bob Guccione meets Franz Kafka, starring George Bush and Geraldine Ferraro; from an original far-out idea by Thomas Jefferson.

True face of mercy killing

A do-it-yourself suicide book is the final obscenity, says Daniel Johnson

Suicide is not a right. It is a mortal sin. It is not merely a denial of hope, a misguided indulgence in fatalism; it can blight the lives of friends and relatives. Euthanasia pressure groups such as the Hemlock Society prey on the primordial fears of the sick, the old and the clinically depressed.

Yesterday it was reported that the society's founder, Derek Humphry, has lost his depressed and gravely ill former wife, Ann, who apparently killed herself in accordance with the advice given in his do-it-yourself book *Final Exit*. Even some of those who deplore her death may be seduced by the notion that suicide and "mercy killing" are excusable, even humane. Just as all kinds of depravity can be justified as "alternative lifestyles", so euthanasia has become an alternative deathstyle.

The name of the Hemlock Society is an allusion to the death of Socrates, and the famous suicides of history and literature are often dragged into the euthanasia cause. The ancient world's attitude to suicide was influenced by its metaphysical convictions: fatalism, cyclical time and a blurring of the edges between divinity and humanity. But classical suicides can be divided into two categories: those like Socrates or Seneca who carried out their own executions, and those like Antony and Cleopatra or the Jews at Massada who preferred death to dishonour.

Christianity drew on the Platonic belief in the immortal soul, but combined this with the Jewish emphasis on a moral law which condemns suicide as an abdication of man's obligations to his creator. Having postulated the sanctity of life as a gift of God, the new religion taught that despair was the ultimate denial of the divine will. Insisting on the individual's responsibility for his actions, both Christianity and Judaism established the principle that no external compulsion could justify suicide.

The modern justification of suicide as a moral "right" was alien to the ancients; even more so to the romantic association of suicide with melancholia. Suicide as

a resolution of any moral dilemma, often associated with adulterous or unrequited love, became fashionable when one of the first European bestsellers, Goethe's *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, seized the imagination in the 1770s. No matter that Goethe himself intended his novel to trace the pathology of a noble mind clouded by what would today be termed manic depression; instead of a terrible warning, Werther became a model. Thereafter, suicide was no longer a taboo.

Once suicide had been legitimised as a moral choice, the way was clear for it to be co-opted into the medical field as "euthanasia". The 20th-century cult of euthanasia was associated with the rise of eugenics and racial theory. Astonishingly, the campaign to make voluntary euthanasia a right survived the involuntary practice of the Nazis, which exterminated hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people before church protests halted it. Suicide was a prominent feature of all the totalitarian systems, but even they did not produce the obscenity of the do-it-yourself suicide book.

Clinical depression is the common factor in most suicide attempts; it is often decisive, even when physical pain or terminal illness are involved. Yet modern drugs and therapeutic methods can cure or ameliorate all but the most severe depressive conditions. It has become a cliché that suicide attempts among the young are usually "cries for help". All too many of them, though, are successful, and the availability of lethal and painless drugs has ensured that many more would succeed if techniques such as those peddled by Derek Humphry were widely known.

Euthanasia and suicide are two aspects of the same evil: the relegation of life to a lower status than well-being. That suffering, emotional and physical, may be the price of participation in the human adventure is ignored by those who preach that life is not an absolute, but merely a relative good. Those who must live with the suicidal temptation are often helped by those who seek to elevate their despair into a virtue.

Mr Lamont's performance was one side of what has been an uneasy week for the Tories. Party managers wanted to show that the government is still fresh and getting on with the job after nearly

12½ years in office. MPs will be kept busy in the coming session. But that is not enough.

Unfortunately for the Tories, the outside world has kept intruding. They do not have the freedom of Labour to propose and oppose with no direct results. They have been constrained by the responsibilities of government. Malcolm Rifkind's announcement of the Channel Tunnel rail link was immediately attacked by both British Rail and Eurotunnel. Mr Lamont's cautious comments about economic recovery and his promise to cut taxes came in a day when the Bank of England intervened to support sterling. Carefully phrased references to the current European talks by both Mr Lamont and Mr Hurd did not answer widespread misgivings within the party. We have not heard the last of the case for a referendum on monetary and political union; some current, as well as former, ministers are sympathetic, in spite of Mr Hurd's opposition.

Until his speech yesterday, there was merriment about his future, recalling R.A. Butler's famous non-endorsement of Anthony Eden, one fellow minister remarked: "William is the best health secretary we have got." Such talk should now be stilled, for the time being. Mr Waldegrave raised his own morale, and the party's, with a fighting speech. Using the language of One Nation Toryism, he did not back down from the reforms. He roused the confidence, always sympathetic to an underdog. But he needs to repeat the performance on television and in the Commons.

Above all, the health service has been a problem. Throughout the week, stories have recurred about cuts in services in hospitals which have opted for trust status. William Waldegrave reasonably

argues that Robin Cook is distorting the truth in talking about privatisation since health care will still be free at the point of delivery, while Labour has never explained when and how it will boost spending. But the government is losing the argument in the opinion polls. On television, Mr Cook regularly has the edge over Mr Waldegrave, who sounds defensive and edgy.

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Even with these distractions, this week's speeches have amounted to little more than a mixture of defending current policies, attacking inconsistencies in Labour's approach, and a hope that the economy will recover by the spring. The Tories will naturally try to highlight the areas in which they are already strong in the policy: economic competence, defence and law and order. Mr Baker, who has been subject to widespread criticism recently, forcefully counter-attacked his detractors, offering a message of fire and brimstone, but conceding nothing of substance to the "hangars and floggers".

Much will depend on the "grudge" factor, the extent to which voters blame the government for the difficulties of the late 1980s: the poll tax (which is still with us), high interest rates, accelerating inflation and worries about the health and education services. Together, these grudges amount to a powerful "time for a change" argument. The implicit Tory answer is that there has been a change: that we now have Mr Major as prime minister.

But if the Major government puts too much emphasis on the changes since last November in policy towards public services or Europe, it risks dividing the party. Many of the leaders of Conserva-

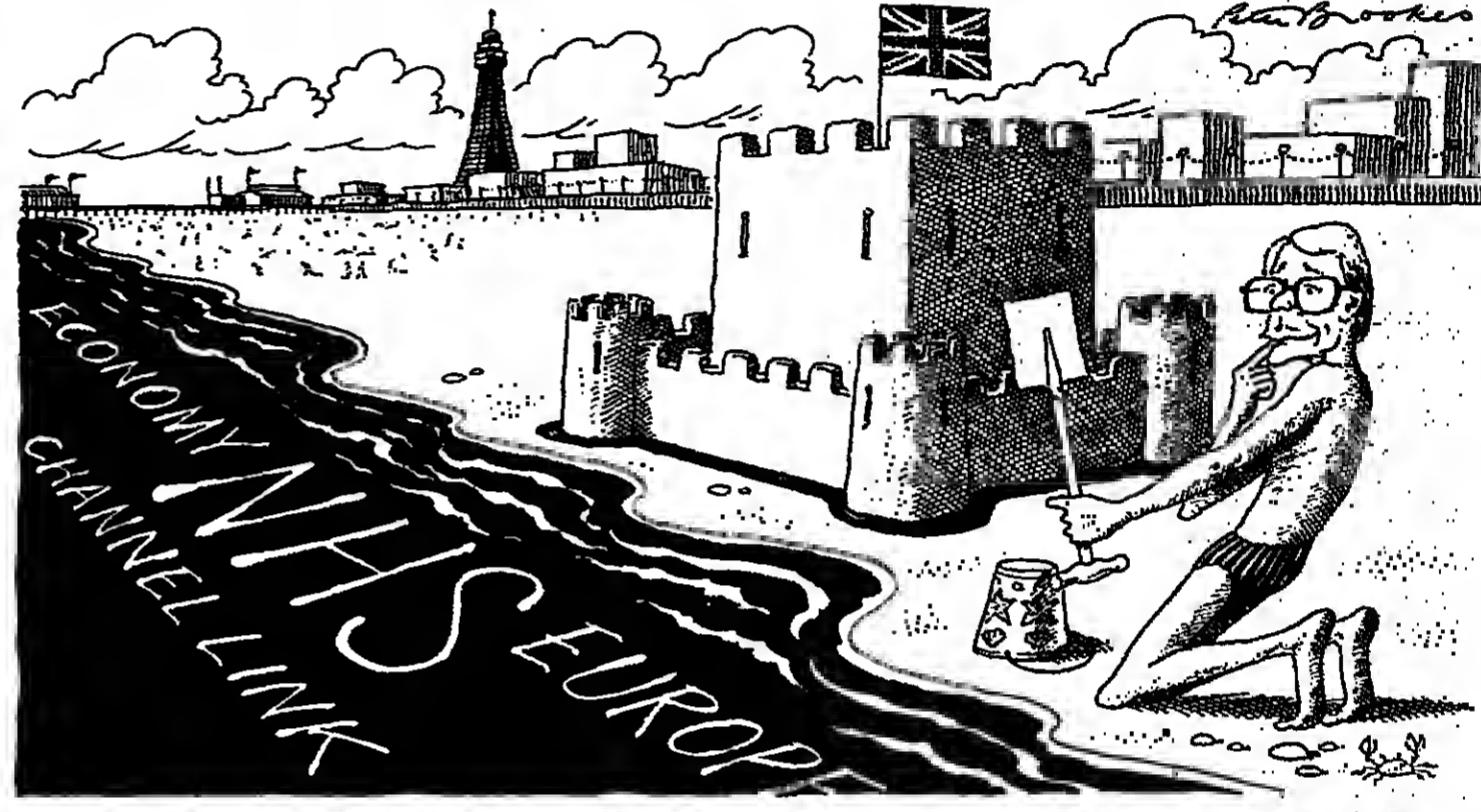
tive. Way Forward, are exhausted by the "vulcanoes", but Norman Tebbit and Cecil Parkinson were still able to attract a large audience of young activists in a fringe meeting proclaiming the true faith.

Within the government, Michael Howard has emerged as one of the leading advocates of "firm adherence to radical reform". In a fringe speech, he argued that the key to Britain's competitive position lies in continuing to cut taxes and reduce the regulatory burden on business. By contrast, while not disagreeing over any details, Chris Patten offered something more like consolidation in his speech on Tuesday. He even conceded that governments make mistakes from time to time, an admission of fallibility rarely heard at recent party conferences.

Mr Major has skillfully bridged these differing tendencies. Today he needs to be more than the adept whip. He has to lift his party by stating his beliefs about the balance between improving public services and cuts in taxation, and about European union. In short, what would Britain be like after a full Major term?

John Major's seaside blues

The prime minister needs to lift his party with a visionary speech, argues Peter Riddell



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Yesterday found me in a brothel. I knew where to look. It knew that an ace reporter did not let the grass grow, if the nation was undergoing yet another of those prurient convulsions periodically detonated by a great man's moral hiccup, then it was the bounden duty of everyone with a trenchcoat and a bit of short-hand to raise the double standard high and march towards the sound of the sniggering.

You know me, though: a tireless sook after truth, I eschew the easy routes. I am not a man to lurk behind the Kellogg's display in some Balaeric Tesco, idly waiting for a fugitive pillar of society to push his trolley past, nor am I, when the editorial cry goes out to round up the usual psychologists, content simply to cobble their clichés into another lecturette about why men blessed with radiant and fragrant domesticity should occasionally find themselves doom'd for a certain term to walk the night. I dig deep. If necessary, I am prepared to go back two thousand years.

Or 1912 years, to be precise, which is what we can be in this case. We know the exact hour at which, on August 24, 79 AD, time stood still for lovers, and never started again. We can walk into the little whorehouse behind Abbondanza Street and know that one moment the occupants of its five snug cubicles were at it like knives, and the next grisly missses had whistled through

Speech therapy

A LITTLE-KNOWN Cheltenham doctor has emerged as the man responsible for saving William Waldegrave's political career.

Faced with the task of delivering the most crucial speech of his political life, Waldegrave rejected most of the advice from Tory central office's public relations advisers. Instead he put his faith in the wisdom of Clive Foggatt, a National Health Service GP for the last 20 years, who drafted much of his speech. Waldegrave's wife, Caroline, also took a prominent role in the writing. The result was, most observers felt, a considerable success.

Waldegrave drafted his first thoughts for the speech almost three weeks ago. Foggatt, a former Tory county councillor, was then given a copy, as were three other advisers. They added to the speech and restructured it before

Now, say Ah!

achieved if you are blessed with roomier premises than a Vauxhall parked, briefly, behind King's Cross station. As for kerb-crawling, it was so sanctioned by the civic fathers that phalluses were chiselled into the paving-stones to indicate the optimum route to crawl, and so graphically that, twenty centuries on, a party of Japanese visitors plodding soberly up Abbondanza Street in front of me suddenly fragmented like a flock of startled pigeons, giggling helplessly and allowing me to tip past into Number VII before the rush. And what a poignant spot it was: five tiny rooms, each with a little stone bed and a little stone pillow, each sporting its fresco depicting the imaginative shenanigans of the ancient lusty, forever panting and forever young, embracing not merely one another but strangers 2,000 years younger, in the world's oldest continuum.

As we ace reporters say, it made you think. If you were not careful, you could easily find yourself nibbling at the old chestnut about state-run brothels and before you knew it, you might have had to face the one about Pompeii's being dedicated to Venus and how much easier it might be to worship something a little more sympathetic than our own celibate divinities. And soon after that you might even have had to ask yourself how far we have crawled in 2,000 years.

I was too smart to do any of that. I made an excuse and left.

Haring about

PLAYWRIGHT David Hare reveals that he had to turn investigative journalist to write *Murdering Judges*, which opened at the National Theatre last night.

I spent a day going from a very posh lunch at the Middle Temple with barristers and judges to a south London police station for the afternoon and then to a prison in the evening, he says. Divisions between the three branches of British law are so rigid that he was probably the only person in London to have had direct experience of all three on the same day. "We have three concentric circles, and I wanted to bring the three together, which nobody ever does."

All three are like trade unions, he says. "The police want to keep their power and have nothing to do with lawyers, while lawyers and judges want to have nothing to do with the police. And then nobody has anything to do with people in the prison service, who feel most aggrieved."

Now, say Ah!

WHILE much of what occurs on stage has received a critical drubbing, the conductor, Bernard Haitink, has been cheered to the rafters nightly at Covent Garden's new Ring cycle. But it is a far cry from one of his ambitions: to stage a "Ring for the masses" at the Albert Hall, with cheap seats. Haitink was excited at the prospect of staging such a project, when Covent Garden was due to be closed for rebuilding in 1993 and 1994. But now, with the closure delayed at least until 1996, there must be doubt about whether Haitink, who is thought unlikely to renew his contract next year, will ever fulfil his dream.

Green Pooh-Bah

YESTERDAY'S appointment of Robin Herbert as chairman of the trustees at Kew is rather like making the chancellor of Cambridge University simultaneously chancellor of Oxford. For Herbert is also president of the Royal Horticultural Society, and so now holds the two most important jobs in his field. Heribert began as a schoolboy "growing pots of geraniums in my room at Eton". By the time he was 16, he had inherited a ten-acre garden in Wales, which he now tends only at weekends, because of his banking career in London. "One can do both jobs," he says. "The only thing that will suffer is time for my own garden."

• Tim Rennell has had the best conference of all. While fellow ministers have been hard at work at Blackpool, the arts minister has this week been hard at work seeing the last production in the aforementioned Ring cycle, visiting a private view of the *Toulouse Lautrec* exhibition on the South Bank (where he joined in the Can Can), being interviewed by Jimmy Young about National Music Day, and attending the Sumo wrestling at the Albert Hall. But yesterday was not so good. He was in Blackpool listening to his ministerial colleagues.

Pages of history

IN THE search for a compromise over how to pay tribute to Bomber Command's role in the war, plans are afoot to produce a sumptuous, hand-crafted volume detailing the courage of individual pilots, engineers and navigators. "This would be a much less controversial way of recognising their courage than the proposed statue of Arthur Harris," says former Hurricane pilot John Golley. Golley plans the work as a companion volume to his book *So Few*, celebrating the exploits of Bomber Command's pilots, which was recently presented by John Major to George Bush. "Something must be done for these Bomber boys. I'm red hot keen to do it," says Golley in ripost RAF language.



UNHEALTHY POLITICS

The great health service row remains, after another week of bludgeoning of and by ministers, what it has been all along – a synthetic political squabble devoid of substance. For Labour to be in power today, its leaders would be wrestling with identical problems of allocating roughly similar resources. It would be wrestling to free itself from producer dominance and to give consumers more freedom and choice. And it too would have to tackle London, whose hospitals are monuments to three decades of producer dominance and pusillanimous government.

In pursuing long overdue changes, the Conservatives are handicapped by an image of lack of care for public-sector services generally. Margaret Thatcher's impatience with that part of the economy for which her government was custodian for a decade is a heavy burden on the shoulders of her successors. The tax boost to private medicine was a foolish gesture of antagonism. Yet the Tory party is not opposed to the NHS: it has become acutely aware of the electoral importance of backing it.

The NHS has even taken over from the army and the police as the department most favoured among backbenchers. William Waldegrave and his predecessors as health secretary have won most of the spending battles with the Treasury. But as long as health is a public-sector service, unreformed and undelegated and with every decision open to challenge in Parliament, so long will Labour be able to stigmatise the Conservatives as not really believing in it.

Mr Waldegrave has had other obstacles to surmount. Since the NHS changes are designed to improve value for money from the health service – which means using the language of costs and benefits – it is peculiarly easy for opponents to charge that the reforms "put money before health". The real scandal is not that modern management has at last caught up with the NHS, but that so much of the £33 billion a year that the service costs is spent without proper consideration of priorities.

Since picking up the poisoned chalice, Mr.

Waldegrave has gone to some lengths in redefining these terms, in changing customers back to patients. Leaders of the doctors, nurses and manual ancillary workers have pretended that demand for health is a limitless right. Such economic illiteracy may do credit to their trade union, single-mindedness, but does none to their status as responsible "carers".

For both reasons, Labour has found it easy to pursue its campaign against Mr Waldegrave and his colleagues. In doing so it has managed to wrongfoot successive health secretaries. The reforms were delayed as consultations stretched from months to years under Norman Fowler and then under Kenneth Clarke. Their rash concessions were made to buy off political unpopularity, notably the nurses' pay and grading settlement in 1988. This gave the whole NHS a belief that the cabinet would pay a king's ransom to have its reforms accepted by its minister.

Finally plans to tackle the chaos of London's hospitals were put off again and again, until, with utter predictability, the opting-out arrangements brought chickens home to roost. Now Mr Waldegrave seems to be backing away from further opting out in London pending a survey of hospitals in the capital. The internal market may be the chosen means of reordering in-patient priorities elsewhere in the country. But in the capital, as with privatised bus services, markets are suddenly a less than ideal form of resource allocation for a Tory party with its back to the wall.

Such is the power of the producer lobbies for which Labour is now a near-hysterical spokesman. Labour has not come forward with a single new good idea. The cynicism with which Robin Cook and Harriet Harman have sought to promote their claim that the Tories really mean to privatise the NHS has been shameless. British politics now finds it almost impossible to debate such reforms to the political economy in other than the most partisan terms. And for this unhealthy state, both parties must take the blame.

QUALITY SCREENING

The fate of some of the great names of British television, including Thames, Granada and LWT, is today in the hands of the ten members of the Independent Television Commission. Unless they need to meet again, their decision is expected to be made by the weekend. The ITC's duty must be to preserve above all the quality of the service, if necessary by pushing the rules under which it has to operate to the very limits of their lawful interpretation.

The government's original method for distributing the new licences to broadcast – merely giving them to the highest bidder – had no merits beyond simplicity. By trying to adjust the method to meet trenchant criticism, including some from its own backbenchers, even that virtue has been lost. The task facing the ITC is now of staggering complexity, and involves subjective judgments which are almost impossible to make. No way should anything like this auction ever be repeated, and significantly not a single minister is now prepared to claim credit for the exercise.

First, the ITC has to weed out any bids which do not pass a "quality threshold" set by itself. Under the broadcasting bill as originally drafted, its only task would have been to see that the highest bids were financially viable. But the bill was amended in passage not only to include this test but also to allow the ITC to set aside a higher bid if "exceptional circumstances" warranted it. The extent to which these vague phrases can be stretched to protect the public interest is now for the ITC itself to decide. The public interest never lay in extracting some £200-£300 million from the commercial television sector as a windfall to the Treasury and does not lie in squeezing the last £5 million now.

The phrase "exceptional circumstances" was conceded by the government to answer the charge that it was bent on wiping out the public-service element in commercial television. The only interpretation of this phrase which makes sense, therefore, is to turn it into a bias in favour of quality. But even that

cannot mean simply comparing the programmes on offer and selecting the most attractive package for each region. Bidders bid blind. They had to guess what the other bidders were submitting, and then add a few million in the hope of exceeding them. Some bidders desperate not to lose their franchise, such as TV5 with its £60 million, went high; Central, because it had no rival in its region, offered a modest figure variously reported at between £2,000 and £1 million.

The high bidders need to convince the ITC that the capital they must raise to give to the Treasury will not so denude programming budgets as to make their promises of quality impossible to deliver. But the business plans submitted with the bids must make guesses about the rate of recovery from recession, particularly in the advertising industry. Who can possibly know? Yet if a high-bidding company gets it wrong and yet wins its franchise, it may face bankruptcy.

To stave off bankruptcy, such companies may be tempted to abandon their more ambitious programming promises. The ITC may then have to decide whether to cancel the franchise licences and before that point is reached, whether to allow networking to function in a way which will cushion companies in trouble. Relations between impoverished companies and rich ones, as they sit down to discuss their contributions to network scheduling, will be turbulent, especially after 1994 when the richer ones will be free to take over ailing neighbours.

All this is quite different from the government's early dreams of a free market in television, regulated only to ensure minimal standards. The ITC is now left to make the best of a very bad job. The public interest would be served by setting the quality threshold high, and preferring those companies which have proved they can produce good programmes rather than those which merely make promises.

PUBLICANS AT BAY

The Tory party is traditionally the party of the brewers, of Youngers and Guinness. Once that meant that it was also the party of the publicans. Publicans and brewers coexisted, in a cosy conspiracy against their customers, called the tied house. The brewers made their money because, in tied houses, they were the monopoly suppliers of beers, spirits and fruit machines. So they let the publicans off lightly with low rents and free maintenance.

Then along came a Tory government with radical instincts. Following a report from the Monopolies Commission, tied houses were cut back. Rents are now being increased twofold and more, as the brewers seek to recoup what they no longer collect through the tills. Many publicans do not like it, and yesterday they descended on Blackpool to press their case.

Economics would give them short shrift. If they cannot stand the heat of a market rent, they should get out of their kitchens. But sentiment is on their side. They appeal to an older Tory tradition, the tradition that loves Old England, dislikes change, and cares for venerable institutions. No more will England be a land of thatched inns overlooking village greens where gaunt ploughmen play cribbage over a pint of wallop. In will come theme pubs, music pubs, pubs with electronic games and pubs where the "usual" is Belgian brown laced with cherry juice.

Now we are in the middle of a third and more diffuse revolution. There is the pub as entertainment centre, with live music, alternative comedy or televised sport. There is the pub as mid-market restaurant, with an international menu of microwaved dishes. There are the new village pubs, modelled on the best of the old village pubs but with far higher catering standards. Nobody can predict which of these will ultimately prosper and which fail. What is certain is that the publicans at the conference have as much chance of bucking the trend as they have of stopping the tide on Blackpool beach.

During the last two years I have been connected with a court challenge

ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

From Professor Joseph Rotblat

Sir, The announcements by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev that short-range nuclear missiles are to be eliminated, and radical cuts made in other nuclear weaponry, make wonderful news (reports, September 28, October 2, 7). These are momentous steps towards rational policy on a vital aspect of world security.

We should now begin to ponder on the next, more fundamental steps. The present thinking envisages further reductions in nuclear arsenals, down to the so-called minimum deterrent. But is this where we should stop? Can a system in which a few states are allowed to retain these weapons be stable in the long run?

If we (the nuclear weapon states) consider the retention of nuclear weapons as essential to our security, how can such security be denied to other states? The underlying notion that, in our hands, possession of nuclear weapons is a guarantee of peace, while their possession by other states is a danger to peace, is untenable in an equitable society; it cannot be the basis for a stable world.

We have, therefore, to consider other solutions. Among them is the most radical and oldest objective: the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The very first resolution of the United Nations, unanimously adopted by the General Assembly in January 1946, pledged "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction". During the dark decades of the Cold War this objective was seen by many as Utopian, but now it deserves serious consideration.

Nuclear weapons cannot be disintegrated. But is this a sufficient reason for their retention? It is a hallmark of a civilised society that it attempts to control, by legislation and international treaties, the undesirable products of technological advances. There is general agreement that chemical and biological weapons should be eliminated and their production and possession banned by international convention. Why should such a convention be ruled out, without a proper study, in relation to nuclear weapons?

The Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, a movement of scientists who lend their specialised knowledge to seek means to avert the menace of war, recently started a project on the desirability and feasibility of a nuclear weapons-free world. We bring together scholars of diverse expertise and nationality to study the various aspects of the problem in the spirit of scientific objectivity.

I believe that such studies are necessary and urgent, and should be undertaken by other groups in society. The time has come to seek a permanent solution to one of the most dreadful perils facing mankind.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH ROTBLAT
(President, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs),
Flat A, 63a Great Russell Street, WC1.

BREAST EXAMINATION

From Mr A. I. Kubba

Sir, The recent breast-examination controversy (report, October 2) raises two important issues. First, health screening cannot only be judged by its life and death value, which tends to cause polarisation, confusion and ultimately apathy. It also undermines confidence in common-sense health practices which in the case of breast examination can enable detection of early disease, thereby avoiding potentially mutilating surgery.

Secondly, in these controversies women tend to be the losers. Having over the years convinced women that they risk death if they deviated from ritualistic breast examination, often propagated by a plethora of manuals and guides, we now seem to hand them over to the "no-touch" breast-awareness lobby without a clear view of what we are meant to achieve. Surely self-breast examination as a means of achieving breast-awareness is the best of both worlds.

Yours sincerely,
A. A. KUBBA
(Consultant community gynaecologist),
St Thomas' Hospital, SE1.

ASYLUM AND THE TORIES

From Mr David Burgess

Sir, Mr Peter Lloyd, the immigration minister (October 9), clearly believes that if you repeat a statement enough times people will believe it. Once again we have his assertion that only a minority of those who seek asylum are "genuine refugees": yet, even on the Home Office's own figures, 89 per cent of those seeking asylum in the UK are being given permission to remain as being of protection.

Mr Lauder-Frost, writing in the same issue, refers to most of those coming to the United Kingdom as being "economic migrants", like the Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong. That term is not a legal term but a slur, used by politicians who seem to make themselves and those they speak to feel easier about returning numbers of asylum-seekers to the risk of persecution.

During the last two years I have been connected with a court challenge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

CIVIL SERVANTS AND TELLING THE TRUTH

From the General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, The prime minister has said that Duncan Nichol, the NHS chief executive, a senior civil servant, bound by civil service rules, was justified in stating "what is the truth" (report, October 8). In this he appeared to support the reported statement of Mr Chris Patten that Duncan Nichol was "entitled, and duty bound even, to speak his mind".

Does this mean that all civil servants are entitled to tell the truth as they see it, or only when their perception of the truth coincides with the government's?

Moreover, are we now to conclude that civil servants are no longer bound by the rules of conduct agreed by the government only last year that they must "conduct themselves in such a way as to deserve and retain the confidence of Min-

isters and be able to establish the same relationship with those whom they may be required to serve in some future administration" (Lord Armstrong of Ilminster's memorandum of 1985, reaffirmed by the government last year)?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH SYMONS,
General Secretary,
The Association of First Division Civil Servants,
2 Carlton Street, SW1.

From Miss Mary M. Wait

Sir, As the Labour party is so shocked by the entry of the civil service into party politics, may we expect that it will, in future, refuse to receive any documents leaked by that service?

Yours faithfully,
MARY M. WAIT,
35 Cavendish Street,
Chichester, Sussex.
October 8.

SPREAD OF BOOK PRICE 'CHARADE'

From the Chairman of Books Etc.

Sir, With great sadness my director and I have joined the price-cutting charade started by Dillons and now Waterstones. We have taken this step very reluctantly, as hitherto our own sales have not been affected by Dillons' activities (on the contrary, most of our London shops have experienced an upturn in trade); but we cannot afford to allow our customers to believe that books at those two stores are necessarily cheaper than at ours.

We remain deeply sceptical of the quantities quoted as having been sold, and indeed of quantities that we ourselves will sell, in spite of the fact that we will be offering discounts of up to 40 per cent on various titles published outside the net book agreement. If necessary we will give 60 per cent or 75 per cent. However, this havoc being brought to the trade by the actions of one publisher and one bookseller is unequalled in my 35 years as a bookseller.

Waterstones, Dillons and indeed Books Etc. have spent large sums of money on their shops to take bookelling into the latter part of the 20th century. Allowing the entrances of these shops to look like remainder-dealers must be one of the oddest decisions ever made in bookelling.

Yours faithfully,
M. GRINDLEY
(Managing Director),
Browers Bookshops Limited,
125 High Street,
Brentwood, Essex.

From Mr Peter Curwen

Sir, Once again you have published a letter (Mr Gibson, October 2) which informs your readers that the abolition of the net book agreement will result in fewer bookshops and fewer titles published. In the latter respect it is noteworthy that there are currently 500,000 titles available, of which remarkably few are stocked in a typical bookshop. This does not indicate that consumers are short of choice.

Furthermore, the proliferation of titles has resulted in short print runs, leading to ever-higher prices which is hardly of benefit to consumers. It is often held that a reduction in titles would have severe consequences for the higher reaches of literature. I think it far more probable that there would be fewer gardening books.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CURWEN,
Sheffield Business School,
Pond Street,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
October 2.

From Mr Anthony Powell

Sir, Can anyone explain to me how my current copy of a classic paperback guide to compact discs published and printed in England but bought at full price in California cost \$19.95, when here it is priced at £15.99 (approximately \$27)? The two prices are printed alongside each other on the cover.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY POWELL,
10 The Glebe, SE3.

NATIONAL LOTTERY

From the Managing Director of Vernons Pools

Sir, Philip Green's letter (October 8) and others in a similar vein which have preceded it in your columns continue to ignore the fundamental reason why the introduction of a national lottery would not bring significant net economic and social benefits to Britain" as Mr Green suggests it would.

The UK gambling market is already virtually the largest in Europe in terms of per capita expenditure and is also the most open and diverse. In addition to a large and long-established football pools industry, there are other substantial market segments serving bingo, bookmaking, casinos and gaming machines which attract participants from a very broad cross-section of the population.

Given the size and unique diversity of the market, there is no basis for repeated claims that a

national lottery would generate significant additional gambling turnover.

In fact, the new advertising and distribution freedoms which would inevitably accompany the introduction of a national lottery would simply result in expenditure being diverted from a variety of current gambling activities of which football pools are certain to be the worst-affected.

What little additional revenue a lottery may generate is likely to be drawn from lower-income groups whose higher propensity to purchase lottery tickets is well documented, most recently in a research study carried out by University College Dublin and relating to the impact of the Irish state lottery.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM HUGHES,
Managing Director,
Vernons Pools,
Forbes House, Park Lane,
Liverpool, Merseyside.
October 9.

From Mr I. M. Davies-Llewellyn

Sir, Could the socks possibly be located in the "Bermuda triangle" of the sock world, which lies between the laundry-basket, the washing-machine and the tumble-dryer?

Yours faithfully,

I. M. DAVIES-LLEWELLYN,

9 Erwlas, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

From Mrs H. Rowland-Jones

Sir, Buy half a dozen pairs of identical socks and then the subsequent odd socks can be used to make three new pairs.

Yours faithfully,

H. ROWLAND-JONES,
9 Woodland Road, Cophorne,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

From Mr Alan Price-Talbot

Sir, An entrepreneur would gain much by opening a "sock exchange" and in so doing give new impetus to the "Footsy" index.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN PRICE-TALBOT,
Lisvane House, Mill Road,

Lisvane, Cardiff.

CHOICE OF CRICKET TOUR OR OXFORD

Many waters cannot quench love, no flood can sweep away the love that we have for our home. It would be a loss to us all to have to leave our home. A world would be lost if we had to leave our home. Song of Songs 8:7 RSV

BIRTHS

ALDER - On October 6th, in Heth, Mrs. David and Sam, a son Samuel, a brother for Alison.

ANDREWS - On October 6th, 1991, to Sally (née Paul) and Peter, a son, Matthew Nicholas.

ASKEW - On October 9th, 1991, at St George's Church, Gresham, a daughter, Sophie Frances.

BOSMAN - On October 8th, at King's College, to Leander and Mary, a son, Robert William Hart, a brother to Andrew.

BOYLE - On October 7th, to Isabelle (née Pilk) and Gerry, a daughter, Harris Sheila, a sister for Fergus, Charlotte and Nicholas.

CAMPBELL - On October 1st, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, a daughter, Jessica Buchanan.

CHARLTON-JONES - On October 6th, to Kasia (née Elizabeth) and Richard, a daughter, Francesca Anna Marie.

COFFIN - On September 25th, to Mary and Christopher, a daughter, Joanne (née Quince).

CONWAY - On October 8th, to Carolyn (née Quince) and David, a son, Julian Jacob.

COWARD - On September 25th, to Michael and Patricia, and Mark, a son, Edward William Philip, a brother for Tom.

CURTIS - On October 6th, at The Portland Hospital, to Mylene (née Hodges) and John, a daughter, Sophie, a grandchild for Mr and Mrs Charles Curtis and Mr and Mrs Raphael Hodges.

FEIGER - On October 7th, at The Portland Hospital, to John George, aged 83 years, beloved husband of Edith, Stewart, Janet, Sheila, Alison, and Heather, and a devoted member of Trinity United Reformed Church, Cranbrook Road, Teddington, on Tuesday 10th October, 1991, at 11.15 am, prior to the interment of his ashes in the crypt of St Paul's Church, Merton.

GARTHWAITE - On October 7th, to Caroline (née Piggott) and David, a son, James William John.

GORDON - On October 3rd, to Suzanne (née Clowther) and Bruce, a daughter, Sarah Louise.

HEWISON - On October 6th, to Erica and Robert, a daughter, Greta Courtney.

HILL - On October 9th, to Alex, Irene, and Helen, a son, Jonathan, a daughter, Georgia Elizabeth.

KINGSHOTT - On October 1st, to Helen and Michael, a son, a brother for Oliver.

MAYER - On October 9th, to Anna and Lucas, a daughter.

NISSE - On October 7th, at The Portland Hospital, 10 Mary (née Pierce) and Ian, a daughter, Eva, a son, Jonathan, a daughter, Sophie, a granddaughter, and Sean, a son, (0536) 262268.

MORRISON - On October 9th, to Helen and Michael, a son, a brother for Oliver.

MURRAY - On October 1st, to Andrew, a son, Jonathan, a daughter, Georgia Elizabeth.

NEARY - On October 1st, to Helen and Michael, a son, a brother for Oliver.

NISS - On October 7th, at The Portland Hospital, 10 Mary (née Pierce) and Ian, a daughter, Eva, a son, Jonathan, a daughter, Sophie, a granddaughter, and Sean, a son, (0536) 262268.

ROBERTS - On September 29th, to Jane (née Drew) and Paul, a son, Thomas Malibeu.

TRAFFORD - On October 8th, to Sheila (née Blundell) and Michael, a son, Michael.

VAUGHAN-POWELL - On October 10th, to Kate (née Broadbent) and John, a daughter, Alice Mary Quin, a son, Michael.

WALLACE - On October 8th, to Elizabeth (née Lawton) and John, a daughter, Patricia Caroline, a son, for John.

WATSON - On October 8th, to Tari and Keith, a son, David Benjamin, a brother for Natasha, and Grahame.

DEATHS

BLACKBORD - On October 10th, Dorothy (née (Bobby) Mauders of Palgrave, Flowers 10 Maunders of Palgrave.

HESKETH - On October 10th, 1991, Peter Edward Marter of Newby, son of Nancy, father of Rawdon and Sue, father-in-law of Andy, and son, Penn (né) Charles and Peter, brother of John, Hesketh. Funeral private, family flowers only.

HOWARD - On October 9th, 1991, Alexander Samuel, peacefully in Hove, much-loved husband and father, of the Downs Crematorium, Bexhill Road, Brighton, on Monday October 14th 1991 at 3 pm.

HUTCHISON - On October 8th, 1991, Austin, son of Mr and Mrs. C. G. Hutchison, K. B.E. Funeral Service at Rendham Church on Sunday October 13th at 2.30 pm. Flowers 10 Moore Bros., Framlington Suffolk, please.

JOHNSON - On October 5th, peacefully in his home, Gareth, a son, Andrew, a daughter, Daphne Frances.

BOSMAN - On October 8th, at King's College, to Leander and Mary, a son, Robert William Hart, a brother to Andrew.

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NISSE - On October 7th, at The Portland Hospital, 10 Mary (née Pierce) and Ian, a daughter, Eva, a son, Jonathan, a daughter, Sophie, a granddaughter, and Sean, a son, (0536) 262268.

ROBERTS - On October 9th, to Helen and Michael, a son, a brother for Oliver.

WALLACE - On October 8th, to Elizabeth (née Lawton) and John, a daughter, Patricia Caroline, a son, for John.

WATSON - On October 8th, to Tari and Keith, a son, David Benjamin, a brother for Natasha, and Grahame.

DEATHS

UPTON - On October 6th, 1991, Dorothy (née (Bobby) Mauders of Palgrave, Flowers 10 Maunders of Palgrave.

HESKETH - On October 10th, 1991, Peter Edward Marter of Newby, son of Nancy, father of Rawdon and Sue, father-in-law of Andy, and son, Penn (né) Charles and Peter, brother of John, Hesketh. Funeral private, family flowers only.

HOWARD - On October 9th, 1991, Alexander Samuel, peacefully in Hove, much-loved husband and father, of the Downs Crematorium, Bexhill Road, Brighton, on Monday October 14th 1991 at 3 pm.

HUTCHISON - On October 8th, 1991, Austin, son of Mr and Mrs. C. G. Hutchison, K. B.E. Funeral Service at Rendham Church on Sunday October 13th at 2.30 pm. Flowers 10 Moore Bros., Framlington Suffolk, please.

JOHNSON - On October 5th, peacefully in his home, Gareth, a son, Andrew, a daughter, Daphne Frances.

BOSMAN - On October 8th, at King's College, to Leander and Mary, a son, Robert William Hart, a brother to Andrew.

BOYLE - On October 7th, to Isabelle (née Pilk) and Gerry, a daughter, Harris Sheila, a sister for Fergus, Charlotte and Nicholas.

CAMPBELL - On October 1st, at Queen Mary's Hospital, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, a daughter, Jessica Buchanan.

CHARLTON-JONES - On October 6th, to Kasia (née Elizabeth) and Richard, a daughter, Francesca Anna Marie.

COFFIN - On September 25th, to Mary and Christopher, a daughter, Joanne (née Quince).

CONWAY - On October 8th, to Carolyn (née Quince) and David, a son, Julian Jacob.

COWARD - On September 25th, to Michael and Patricia, and Mark, a son, Edward William Philip, a brother for Tom.

CURTIS - On October 6th, at The Portland Hospital, to Mylene (née Hodges) and John, a daughter, Sophie, a grandchild for Mr and Mrs Charles Curtis and Mr and Mrs Raphael Hodges.

FEIGER - On October 7th, at The Portland Hospital, to John George, aged 83 years, beloved husband of Edith, Stewart, Janet, Sheila, Alison, and Heather, and a devoted member of Trinity United Reformed Church, Cranbrook Road, Teddington, on Tuesday 10th October, 1991, at 11.15 am, prior to the interment of his ashes in the crypt of St Paul's Church, Merton.

GARTHWAITE - On October 7th, to Caroline (née Piggott) and David, a son, James William John.

GORDON - On October 3rd, to Suzanne (née Clowther) and Bruce, a daughter, Sarah Louise.

HEWISON - On October 6th, to Erica and Robert, a daughter, Greta Courtney.

HILL - On October 9th, to Alex, Irene, and Helen, a son, Jonathan, a daughter, Georgia Elizabeth.

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City

6.00 Ceefax 6.30 Breakfast News
9.35 Perfect Strangers. American comedy series
9.30 Conservative Party Conference. Live coverage of the last day's proceedings during which the delegates have the opportunity to discuss a topic of their own choice
10.00 News. National news and weather 10.05 Playdays 10.25 The Family News. Cartoon adventures (r)
10.35 Conservative Party Conference. Further live coverage from Blackpool including the address by Chris Patten, the party chairman. With news and weather at 11.00 and 12.00
12.15 Keep Taking the Petals. A documentary examination of the growth of Asian medicine in Britain (r) 12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) 1.50 Lifeline (r)
2.00 Sport on Friday. The line-up is (subject to alteration): Golf: quarter-final action from the Dunhill Cup; and Racing from Ascot: the 2.30, 3.00 and 3.40 races. The 4.15 race is covered on BBC2, along with polo and show jumping
3.50 Pingu. Animated adventures of a clumsy penguin 3.55 The Little Green Planet Show. The fifth of a six-part science series for children (s) 4.10 The Legend of Prince Phillip. Animated fantasy series about a young hero's quest for legendary Camelot (s) 4.35 Record Breakers presented by Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker. Includes an attempt to break the record for travelling through the 29 locks of the Cenol Hill flight on the Kennet and Avon canal between Fonthill Lock and Devizes Bridge Lock
5.00 Newsworld 5.10 Grange Hill (r) (Ceefax) (s)
5.25 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Melvin Stewart. Weather 6.30 Reporting Scotland. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 6.55 Friday Sportscene presented by Hazel Irvine and Rob MacLean. Previews of Scotland's crucial game with Ireland in the rugby world cup; and the football team's European cup match against Romania 7.20 The Insiders. Gordon Campbell, in the company of local actress and singer Alison Burns, explores lesser-known Dundee 7.50 The Scottish Chart. The best-selling pop records 8.00 The Russ Abbot Show. Another collection of madcap comedy sketches. With Les Dennis, Bella Emborg and Sherrie Hewson. (Ceefax) (s)
8.30 On the Up. The last of the Jane comedy series starring Dennis Waterman as a self-made millionaire with domestic difficulties. (Ceefax) (s)
8.00 Nine O'Clock News with Mervyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather
8.30 Casualty. The format of half a dozen storylines, all converging on the hard-pressed hospital casualty department, has become a bit of a formula but strong writing and an urgent pace usually carry it off. This week the medics have to deal with an innocent bystander who is injured when a car bomb placed by animal rights activists explodes at the wrong time. (Ceefax) (s)



Success in a minor key? Malcolm Arnold reassessed (10.20pm)

10.20 Omnibus: Malcolm Arnold at 70.

● CHOICE: Instead of doing what arts documentaries often do, which is to promote their subject's latest creation, Kriss Kuonen's study of Malcolm Arnold has nothing to sell but a lot to discuss. Far from celebrating Arnold's latest work, the Ninth Symphony, the programme reminds us that it was written five years ago and has still to be given a professional performance. The central question is why Arnold's reputation is not higher. The argument ranges over the quality of his music and whether it has fallen out of fashion and looks for pointers in the composer's own history, his mental breakdowns, his alcoholism and suicide attempts. His output has been prodigious. In six years he composed 81 film scores, as well as important orchestral pieces. He won an Oscar for *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, but critics have been vitriolic. At 70 Arnold looks nearer 80 and says he wishes he had not lived so long

11.10 Horse of the Year Show introduced by David Vine from the Wembury Arena, featuring the Henderson Masters

12.20am Wogan. Tonight's guests include Frank Bruno, Les Dawson and model Naomi Campbell. Music is from singers Robert Fack and Max Priest 12.35 Weather.

11.40 Rugby World Cup 8.15-9.45
England v France 9.45-10.45
Grown 2.25 Night Best 3.55 Cinema/Attractions 7.00-8.00 Film: The Black Orchid (Ronald Howard, Orga Edwards)

HTV WEST

As Scottish except: 1.50pm-2.20 The Young Doctor 0.00 HTV News 6.00-7.00 The Trials of Rosie O'Neill 10.40-11.00 BBC Matchplay 11.10-11.40 Rugby World Cup 9.1-12.35am 1.05 Ents - Good Rocker Tonight

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 8.00pm Wales at 8.30-10.10 Special Report: Cardiff 8.30-9.00

Special Report: Cardiff 8.30-9.00

LONDON

As Scottish except: 1.50pm-2.20 A Country Practice 8.00-8.30 Lookaround Friday 10.15-11.15 The Heat of the Night 2.05 Almost Grown 2.55 Night Best 3.55 Cinema/Attractions 4.25-5.30 Film: Black Orchid

CENTRAL

As Scottish except: 5.10pm-5.40 This is America, Charlie Brown 8.00 Home and Away 8.25-7.00 Central News 9.00-10.00 The Trials of Rosie O'Neill 10.40-11.00 BBC Matchplay 11.10-11.40 Rugby World Cup 9.1-12.35am 1.05 Ents - Good Rocker Tonight

TSW

As Scottish except: 5.10pm-5.40 The Man from Today 8.00-9.00 Game for All 9.00-10.00 The Trials of Rosie O'Neill 10.40-11.00 BBC Matchplay 11.10-11.40 The Last and Harry 2.05-2.35 Victorian 2.55 Night Best 3.55 5.30 Garrison's Coffins

SAC

Starts 8.00am C4 Daily 8.25 Schedule 12.00

11.40 Rugby World Cup 8.15-9.45
England v France 9.45-10.45
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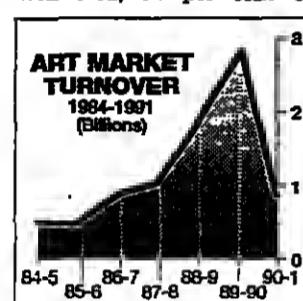
Art market turnover slumps 70%

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE turnover of world art auctions fell by 70 per cent in the year to July 31, and the number of works sold dropped by nearly a third, according to figures compiled by the Art Sales Index database. The index, which is the first impartial analysis of the art market since the boom collapsed at the end of 1990, shows that the auction turnover fell from £2,814 million in the 1989-90 season to £844 million.

The number of works sold has gone down from 117,000 to 32,000. Sales for more than £1 million fell from 369 in 1989-90 to 73. The average price for works fell from £23,959 to £10,217.

Richard Hislop, managing editor of the index, said the results were a turning point in the history of the art market, and would probably "be used as a marker against which future auction turnover will be measured, rather like changing the base year on the retail prices index". The Art Market Index compiled its statistics from 1,800 sales held by 320 auctioneers in 24 countries. A total of 82,300 oil paintings, drawings and sculptures were monitored, 94 per cent of



Reaching for the throat at backstabbers' ball

Continued from page 1
There were the little compliments to previous, humbler speakers in the debate ("... and how eloquently Nick Brown from Derby described it to us"; "Maureen Hicks had her finger on the button"; "How right Barbara Aspinwall-Ford was!"). There were the interested enquiries about our own concerns — would we like a new country created, or an old one removed? And then the slow build-up: "We have a new approach" ... Oh, Michael, those wandering hands ... "Prime minister: when you fire the starting gun..." There you go again, Michael.

"The time to start is now!" He sat down. They leapt up. In an act of collective forgiveness on almost continental scale, the entire Conservative party appeared to rise and embrace him with their cheers. It was a moving moment.

All the same ... wasn't that passage — the bit about Mr Kinnock: the bit where Mr Heseltine slid his palm across his throat — a touch risky? Before lunch on Thursday they were cheering him as though it would never stop. Before lunch on Wednesday they had done the same, for her.

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE Chris Pattens and Jack Cunningshams of the next century might be deploying a powerful new technology for manipulating the public image of their leaders, researchers said yesterday.

This series of prime ministerial images might be a new and even disturbing dawn, courtesy of computerised video photography and psychological research. Once the camera was said never to lie and the negatives were available to prove it.

In this new era of electronically manipulated images, able to be made and relayed round the globe in seconds, faces can echo the features of others or reflect traits perceived as intelligent or stupid, caring or strict.

"Most people never meet the prime minister; their images come from television and photographs," said Paul Wombell, curator of the Impressions Gallery, York.

Theoretically Neil Kinnock or Paddy Ashdown could, with the technology, attempt to woo wavering Conservative voters by adding to their media images traits of Winston Churchill, suggested Mr Wombell, editor of *Photovideo*, an Arts Council-sponsored study of the subject.

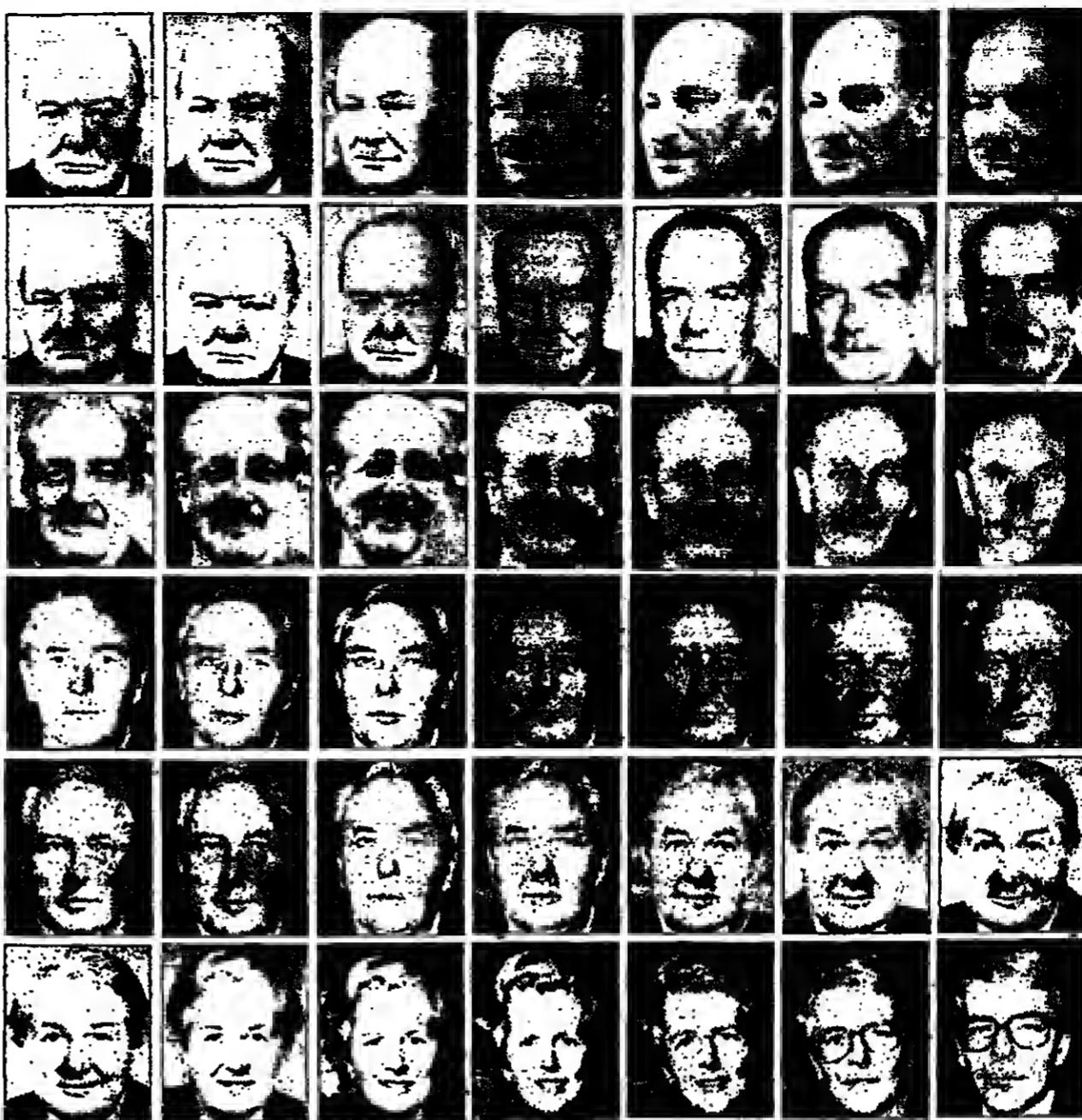
His views are echoed by Philip Benson, a researcher in psychology at the University of St Andrews, Scotland, who created the sequence of images with David Perrett.

"When you look at the images which are closer to the Thatcher end, where you have got, say, 25 per cent of Major in there, you are adding some of his characteristics. There is some subconscious reaction to this ... it is something we are starting to look at," said Mr Benson, adding that once programmed, the computer produced the sequence in 40 seconds.

For political leaders to exploit this technology on any large scale would require the collusion of the mass media. What worries some experts is that practices are emerging by default which undermine the once-sacred position of photography making the manipulation of images less of a professional crime.

Photographers would once be dispatched to an event or a disaster leading to a multiplicity of points of view, argues Fred Ritchin, an expert in documentary making, electronic photography and a lecturer at New York University, USA.

As seen during the Gulf war, video images from a single source are increasingly being used by other television stations or "frame grabbed" and used by newspapers. Mr



Facing the future: in this sequence of prime ministers from Churchill top, and left to right, through Attlee, Churchill, Eden, Macmillan, Home, Wilson, Heath, Wilson, Callaghan, Thatcher and Major, the computer demonstrates how voters might be persuaded to see just what they want to see in the politicians of the day

Ritchin cites the case of a newspaper which, compiled from eyewitness reports, put a "photograph" of an aircraft crashing from page made by a computer.

"National Geographic, in search of a vertical image, used a computer to rotate one of the pyramids of Giza behind another. The editor referred to it simply as a retroactive repositioning of the photographer a few feet to

one side," said Mr Ritchin.

At the very least, Mr Wombell believes the technology might lead to political leaders on a hasty schedule turning to portable computers carrying electronic identity kits to suit every occasion.

With the press of a button, preprogrammed images could be summoned up complete with dress, hair and make-up styles which the leader will copy.

Some of the styles might be soft and caring and suitable for a trip to a school or a health service speech, with other, harder, ones for conference rousing attacks on the opposition.

Photovideo: Photography in the Age of the Computer. Published by Rivers Oram Press. Price £11.95. PH—video, a travelling exhibition, at the Photographer's Gallery, London, November 1.

MPs will examine Channel rail link details

Continued from page 1

of the east had isolated Waterloo, making construction of the new £120 million Channel terminal quite pointless. Tony Hart, leader of Kent county council, said that tens of thousands of commuters in Kent, Sussex and Surrey now

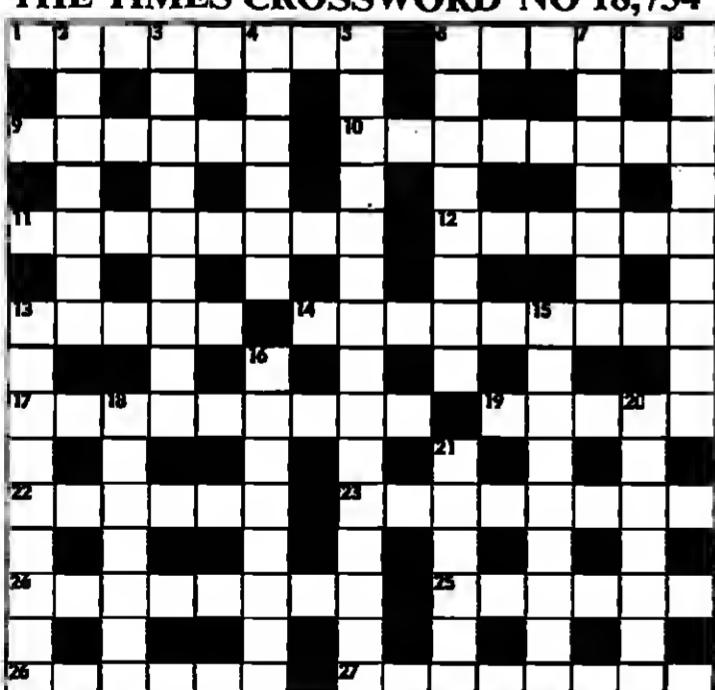
have little prospect of ever seeing an improvement in rail services into central London.

MPs and residents along the new eastern approach fear that the government's decision has simply transferred the flight and uncertainty from south to east London. The extent of the

route's environmental impact has yet to be assessed. But Rainham marshes, London's largest site of special scientific interest, could be affected by the new line. British Rail's proposal was criticised because it relied on existing lines to carry freight through

south London to yards in west London. These lines will still have to be used for freight in the early years of the new scheme, but if the eastern approach is developed, the continental freight trains will have to be routed on an upgraded north London line.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,734



ACROSS
1 Traps not big enough for growlers? (8).
6 A little RAF fiancee wins the palm (6).
9 Picture sales announced (6).
10 For Peru, dial unusual number (8).
11 Headed paper? (8).
12 Backward boy is unable to move to another area (6).
13 Secluded route via Street (5).
14 Ruined, out of work, and has suffered (9).
17 Let no rude comic during pause between acts (9).
19 However stereotyped, this is a useful quality (5).
22 Editorial chief (6).

Selection to Puzzle No 18,733

STENCH TWO FACED
TAHHO AUE
AUSTERE ROSTRUM
RT CRCTAO
BREAK SEVEN ACTS
ON P SPA
ANDROID TURN OFF
RIE E O I
DIVINES RAMBLER
ET ME I S
STAND CONTINGENT
CIIKIAASL
RUSSIAN GEDILLA
IO E O E O E D
PANGLOSS DROWDY

23 "Charm" is a refined, mid-fashioined word (8).
24 Verging on a head-on attack (8).
25 They may come home very late indeed in Hereford, say (6).
26 He believes decent finally leads in robbery (6).
27 The sort of censure that is worthless (8).

DOWN
2 The art of speaking in a small chapel (7).
3 Cowardly line of people on horse? (9).
4 Cui abit about school (6).
5 Knock-out drops a man caught hunting initially (8-7).
6 The animals to check rising grass (8).
7 Paper in the Algarve is a botch-pot (7).
8 Sbars acquired for its yield, presumably (9).
13 Exceptional diamond (9).
15 It used to be very hot indeed in Georgia's cloak (3-6).
16 He gets the wind up — a mistral, perhaps (8).
18 Decrepit peace in our time? Quite the opposite (7).
20 One slip is bad in a short foreign letter (7).
21 Headgear often worn by Ben? (3-3).

Call now for details

By Philip Howard
NAMES

AARON'S ROD
a. Chief Rabbi's ceremonial sceptre
b. A shooting stick
c. A common garden plant
KAILYARD SCHOOL
a. Scottish writers
b. Glenalmond
c. The school of hard experience
KINGSTON LACY
a. The single lady hyacinths
b. Jazzy and strong ram's bunch
c. A stately house near Wimborne
DOROTHY PERKINS
a. A female Bumby
b. A female rating in the US Navy
c. A rambling rose

Answers on page 20

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London & SE

C London (within N & S Circs) ...

M-ways/roads M4-M1

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T-

M-ways/roads M25-M4

M-ways/roads M25-London Orbital only

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Wales

Midlands

East Anglia

North-west England

North-east England

Scotland

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Australia S ...

Austria S ...

Belgium Fr ...

Canada S ...

Denmark Kr ...

Finland Fr ...

France Fr ...

Germany Dm ...

Greece Dr ...

Hong Kong \$...

Ireland P ...

Italy Lira ...

Japan Yen ...

New Zealand \$...

Norway Kr ...

Portugal Esc ...

South Africa R ...

Spain Peseta ...

Sweden Kr ...

Turkey Lira ...

USA S ...

Yugoslavia Dr ...

* denotes figures are latest available

WEATHER

Most parts will have a mainly dry but rather cloudy day. Although most areas will brighten up at times, it will be western Scotland that will see the best of any sunshine. North-east Scotland can also expect outbreaks of drizzle. The rain over some western areas will die out during the morning although there is still a risk of further showery outbreaks. Outlook: fairly cloudy with outbreaks of rain.

AERONAUTICS

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ROUTE

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WEATHER

ROUTE

Museum urged to put more out to contract

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-29
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- MOTORING 31
- YOUR OWN BUSINESS 33
- SPORT 35-40

WEEKEND MONEY TOMORROW

PROFILE

Lord Weinstock of Bowden, the chairman of GEC and a captain of British industry for 30 years, is shy, secretive and unyielding. He shuns personal publicity but gives a rare interview to Carol Leonard

CASH AND RUN

Disputed withdrawals from cash dispensers are on the increase yet banks and building societies deny firmly that "phantom" withdrawals can occur. Lindsay Cook reports

PENALTY CLAUSE

Homebuyers considering fixed-rate mortgages need to know what the penalty might be for early redemption. One couple is having to pay £4,600

Brent plan opposed

COUNT Alexei Orlov, head of the Brent Walker small shareholders' action committee, which claims to speak for 14 per cent of the shares, is writing to all 8,000 shareholders, asking them to oppose the refinancing plan still being thrashed out by Brent's banks and bondholders.

Count Orlov has called a shareholders' meeting for tomorrow week, at which he will indicate what support he has gained from the small shareholders. He claims the terms on offer to shareholders from the banks' reconstruction offer them nothing and are equivalent to liquidation.

Unpalatable truth, page 25

THE MARKET
US dollar 1.7177 (+0.0072)
German mark 2.9055 (-0.0015)
Exchange index 90.3 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCKMARKET
FT 30 share 1956.4 (-19.3)
FT-SE 100 2570.8 (-13.3)
New York Dow Jones 2943.87 (-2.46)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 14223.53
Closed

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Steedley 280p (+10p)
Welcome 715p (+15p)
Vodafone 3731p (+45p)
Medeva 224p (+15p)
Nu-Swift 300p (+15p)
Allied Textiles 442p (+145p)
FALLS:
Taylor Woodrow 160p (-10p)
Rans Org 651p (-10p)
Banksley Group 520p (-13p)
ADL 40p (-10p)
Glymed 231p (-11p)
Fisons 469p (-15p)
Atwoods 167.5p (-10p)
G Wimpey 157p (-10p)
Sohelby 600p (-30p)
Unilever 374.1p (-15p)
MB-Cardon 775p (-5p)
BOC 581.4p (-21p)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10.1%
3-month interbank 10.1% - 10.1%
3-month eligible bills: 10.1% - 10%
US: Prime Rate 8%
Federal Funds 8%
3-month Treasury Bills: 5.025-5.01%
30-year bonds 10.1% - 10.1%
10.1% - 10.1%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ 1.7155 E 5.7155
DM 2.9059 DM 1.9940
Swf 12.5432 Swf 10.9900
Ff 175.7825 Ff 150.35
Yen 122.53 Yen 100.35
Index 90.3 Index 84.8
ECU 10.704809 SDR 0.796718
ECU 1.418824 SDR 1.255149

London foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$359.50 - \$359.50
close \$359.20 - \$359.70 (0.20/0.60-
210.70)
New York: Comex \$359.45 - \$359.95

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$22.20 bbl (322.45)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 August (1987-100)
Denotes midday trading price

★★★★★

THE TIMES

BUSINESS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11 1991

23

Business Editor
John Bell

Hawker fights BTR bid with massive restructuring

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

HAWKER Siddeley, the electrical engineering group endeavouring to escape a £1.5 billion takeover bid by the BTR conglomerate, yesterday detailed plans to sell 60 per cent of its business.

In its first defence document, Hawker said it plans to concentrate on manufacturing electric motors and batteries, and on servicing aircraft engines. Over the next four years, it aims to withdraw from electric power, railway equipment, instruments and controls, and general engineering. The businesses earmarked for disposal have annual

sales of £1.28 billion and employ 28,000 people worldwide.

Sir Peter Baxendale, Hawker's chairman, said: "We have a very clear idea of where we are heading and we need no help from BTR in getting there." He confirmed that by December, Hawker's drive for efficiency will have cost the jobs of 8,000 employees in two years.

Alan Jackson, the chief executive of BTR, said: "Hawker's management seems to have lost its nerve." He added: "The shareholders should question the timing and scale of the disposal programme."

The scale of the restructuring, which the bid has forced Hawker to

detail, is breathtaking. Sir Peter said the strategy had been approved by his board last November, but details had been kept secret to ease disposal negotiations, and to avoid unsettling customers and employees.

The disposal programme had been delayed by the recession, however, which made it harder to complete deals, and Hawker was determined to improve the performance of many of its businesses to achieve a better price for them.

By the end of 1995, however, Hawker aimed to emerge as a world player in its chosen areas. Cash released by disposals would go to

loying 15,000 people, by organic development and acquisition.

Alan Watkins, Hawker's chief executive, said the group had already made four acquisitions in its new core area, totalling £160 million and had cut operating costs by £100 million. He said further measures should increase efficiency by 30 per cent and free another £20 million from work in progress and stocks.

In his message to shareholders, Sir Peter said: "BTR's bid takes no account of the value of these actions. Its timing is calculated to deprive you of the benefits of economic recovery."

Dr Watkins also attacked BTR's

strategy. "The bid for Hawker Siddeley exposes BTR's pretensions to greater focus as a sham and shows BTR for what it is: 1980s style, acquisition-led, accounting-driven conglomerate," he said.

Mr Jackson scoffed at the scale of disposals, however. "We would not envisage anything like that," he said. BTR would review the strengths and weaknesses of Hawker's diverse portfolio of businesses once it gained control.

BTR shares lost 2p to 404p, while Hawker was down 3p at 736p, 12p ahead of BTR's offer.

Drastic surgery, page 25

Young 'tried to hide illegal aid to BAe'

By OUR CITY STAFF

LORD Young, the former trade secretary, tried to hide millions of pounds in illegal government aid to British Aerospace as part of the deal to privatise Rover, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg heard yesterday.

British Aerospace and Rover are appealing against a European Commission order to repay £44.4 million of so-called sweeteners to the British government. The court was told that during negotiations in 1988 Lord Young offered British Aerospace concessions worth £44.4 million to encourage it to pay £150 million for the car group.

The court also told that Lord Young advised Professor Roland Smith, the former British Aerospace chairman, in writing to keep things quiet or risk alerting the European Commission.

The commission was closely involved in the terms of the takeover. It set conditions for the sale that included an instruction that the government "does not alter the proposed terms of sale as communicated to the Commission".

But Thomas Cusack, commission solicitor, told the court that three financial con-

cessions granted by the government were not covered by the agreement with Brussels. They were a £9.5 million payment to BAe covering the purchase cost of minority shares in Rover, a £1.5 million handout to Rover covering external advice costs linked to the sale, and a benefit to BAe estimated at £33.4 million resulting from the deferral of the sale price payment by 20 months from August 12, 1988.

Jeremy Lever, QC, for BAe and Rover, urged the court to annul the commission's demand for repayment because the companies were innocent parties. He said BAe believed it was honouring the agreement reached between the government and the commission.

But Mr Cusack told the court BAe was "perfectly well informed" in summer 1988 about what was going on.

Then he produced the letter sent by Lord Young to Professor Smith. In it, Lord Young said: "On deferment of payment of the £150 million I can offer three possibilities, in ascending order of risk that the deferral will be picked up by the European Commission. In any case they might require payment of the nominal interest saved."

He suggested three dates for final payment and then went

on: "Deferment would be apparent from both government accounts and your own. In addition, in order to avoid seriously misleading Parliament when we table the revised estimate for the cash injection on the day of the statement, we cannot include the £150 million as a receipt due this year. The omission is likely to be spotted by at least some members."

The letter also referred to the £9.5 million acquisition costs and Lord Young pointed out that Peter Sutherland, the EC competition commissioner, might not necessarily "turn a blind eye" under the EC's state aid regime. "As you are well aware, the Commission has the power to seek repayment. This underlines the need to avoid unnecessarily raising the profile of the issue," he said.

Mr Lever told the court Professor Smith responded immediately to what he called Lord Young's "pick-up" letter. The next day, BAe replied "making it perfectly clear albeit in diplomatic language that that is not the basis on which to proceed".

Mr Lever said Lord Young was left in no doubt that BAe expected the matter to be dealt with in a proper manner.

The court's verdict is expected on December 4.



Written word: Lord Young, whose letter to Professor Smith was read in court

Lilley aims to loosen British Gas grip

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government is seeking to throw the gas market wide open to competition. It wants to force British Gas to put its pipeline network into an arms-length company, surrender more of its gas supplies to competitors, and compete with rivals to supply domestic customers.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, said yesterday that an office of fair trading enquiry had concluded that a monopoly reference on gas was justified, but held back from a reference to see whether British Gas would voluntarily negotiate the competition the government wants.

Yesterday, the government backed the OFT's report on developments in the gas market since 1989, when BG undertook to assist the development of competition.

Mr Lilley said he hoped BG would be prepared to discuss the issues with Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading. Mr Lilley gave warning that the government would consider legislative changes to stimulate competition in gas.

The OFT review, the conclusions of which are largely in line with the drive for greater competition urged by Ofgas, the gas regulator, which welcomed the report, found that there was, as yet, little real competition in the gas market, despite steps taken after the monopolies commission report on the industry in 1988. The OFT report said that although new suppliers had entered the gas market, they were unlikely to have more than a 4.5 per cent share of it in the next few years.

Sir Gordon will ask BG to release quickly to other gas suppliers gas for which they have already contracted, and will ask BG to revise last year's undertaking not to bid for more than 90 per cent of new gas supplies coming on to the market.

BG received the OFT report at the same time as it was published, and officials were clearly annoyed that such extensive changes and government pressure was being applied on the company with little notice. BG was not ready to make any comment last night.

Comment, page 25

Lamont promise steadies pound

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FRESH assurance from Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that he would keep the pound strong within the exchange rate mechanism steadied the currency.

Dr Greig said it was possible that another bidder could emerge, but refused to comment on approaches he might have received. "Our strategy is to remain independent," he said.

Mr Lamont said that if the offer succeeded, the merged business would be based in Scotland and would be the third-largest company in the Scotch whisky industry. "The merger would create significant opportunities for the long-term development of the combined business and for its employees and would provide benefits for the Scottish economy," he said.

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Mr Lamont, speaking on BBC radio's *Today* programme, made it clear that he expected to have time to prepare a normal Budget before the next election. He said Britain had "turned the corner". All the evidence indicated that it was beginning to emerge from recession.

The Chancellor renewed his conference message: "I have made it crystal clear that we will take no risks either with inflation or with the pound." He also promised to keep tight control over public spending. He had "no plans to put up VAT".

The pound remained at the bottom of the ERM grid, but improved 0.1 overall to 90.3 and finished a third of a pence higher at DM2.9069.

At 5pm, it was half a cent higher at \$1.7155, a cent below its best.

Mr Lamont, speaking on BBC radio's *Today* programme, made it clear that he expected to have time to prepare a normal Budget before the next election. He said Britain had "turned the corner". All the evidence indicated that it was beginning to emerge from recession.

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Directors to report on Fox

By ANGELA MACKAY

INDEPENDENT directors of the London Futures and Options Exchange (Fox) will submit a report at an emergency board meeting this morning on the findings of their investigation into possible irregularities related to the exchange's failed property futures contract.

Aided by the new chief executive Phillip Thorpe, the two coo-executive directors, Pat Elmer and David Hardy, will also present the report to the Securities and Investments Board.

Saxo Tate, Fox's chairman and Mark Blundell, chief executive, resigned last weekend after the discovery of possible misdemeanours. Mr Blundell has admitted initiating trades to help boost the contract. The exchange has refused to comment on allegations that it might have traded to some of its own contracts to inflate volumes of what it offered to indemnify brokers who traded in the property contract.

The decision whether to take the matter to court under the Financial Services Act will be made by the trade and industry department.

Jardine to float 33m JIB shares

By JONATHAN PRYNN

JARDINE Matheson Holdings, the Hong Kong trading group, is to float almost a third of JIB Group, its insurance broking subsidiary, in one of the largest offers for sale seen on the London stock market this year.

Details of the sell-off were unveiled in a pathfinder prospectus launched yesterday.

Robert Fleming and Cazeauve are acting as advisers to JIB.

Jardine Matheson is making

33 million shares available for

sale, representing 32.3 per cent of JIB's shares. Of these, half

will be in the form of an institutional placing and half will be

issued through an offer for sale

to the public. The minimum

application is 100 shares.

JIB, which is the world's

eighth largest insurance bro-

ker, forecast pre-tax profits of

at least £19.4 million for 1991,

a 28 per cent increase. Earnings

per share are forecast to

grow by 12.5 per cent to 13.5p.

The underlying rate of organic

profits growth is about 13 per

cent, the company said. A proposed final dividend of 5p will make a total 7.5p payout for the year.

Rodney Leach, the chairman, said that the flotation would allow JIB to offer its paper to vendors of medium-sized broking firms. "As long as JIB was a wholly owned subsidiary we could not offer shares, only cash," he said.

The flotation would also allow JIB to grant share options to its workforce.

JIB earned 42 per cent of its

profits last year from retail

activities, 45 per cent from

reinsurance and 10 per cent from

international wholesale.

The group has net cash of £30

million after a £50 million

cash injection from Jardine

Matheson in June.

Analysts expect the issue to

be priced at between 13 and 14

times forecast earnings for

1991. That would value the

shares at 175.5p to 189p and

would capitalise the company

at about £180 million.

Paper exercise: Rodney Leach, chairman of JIB



JIB Group plc

Share Offer



Paper exercise: Rodney Leach, chairman of JIB

Nasdaq to trade in London

By GEORGE SIVELL

AMERICA'S Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday approved a proposal by the National Association of Securities Dealers to establish a two-year pilot programme for its Nasdaq International Service trading system, which would trade during London market hours.

Nasdaq International will operate from London and will allow investors to trade larger over-the-counter stocks as well as main New York Stock Exchange companies before the start of trading in America.

The new system expands the hours of Nasdaq operations to coincide with trading on the London Stock Exchange so that trading would start at 3.30am American Eastern time, which, depending on the time of year, is either four or five hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. It would end at 9am Eastern time, half an hour before the opening of normal trading in America.

The system will operate along the lines of the Nasdaq computerised system for over-the-counter stocks in America. But the disclosure requirements governing the system will vary from those in both America and Britain.

BUSINESS ROMANCE

Medeva sells shares to buy US drug firm

MEDEVA, the pharmaceuticals group, yesterday placed 17 million shares at 195p each to raise £50 million. It is paying for Adams Laboratories of Fort Worth, Texas. Adams, specialising in brand-name pharmaceuticals for the treatment of respiratory complaints, reported sales of \$22.5 million in the year ended June 30, on which pre-tax profits of \$7.3 million were made.

Adams' sales for the six months to end-December are forecast at \$16 million, on which profits of \$6 million are expected. Medeva is paying an initial \$30 million and will make deferred payments from 1993 up to a maximum of \$77.2 million in three annual tranches. Medeva's shares rose 5p to 210p.

James Finlay Minorco on advances

JAMES Finlay, the diversified Glasgow tea and cotton planter that also has interests in merchant banking, reports pre-tax profits of £3.14 million (£4.42 million) for the six months to end-June. Turnover was £74.2 million (£78.2 million) and the interim dividend stays at 2p a share. Figures include £1.31 million realised on the disposal of property.

Bond beer sale close

LION Nathan, the New Zealand company, is set to become the biggest brewer in Australia through an Aus\$500 million (£23.3 million) deal to take complete control of the former Bond Brewing empire.

Lion Nathan is to take over Australian Consolidated Investments, formerly Bell Resources. The two companies each have 50 per cent of National Brewing Holdings, which controls the former Bond assets. They have made a "merger" agreement that will give Lion Nathan full ownership of the Castlemaine XXXX, Toohey's, and Swan beer brands and a 20-year bottling franchise for Pepsi soft drinks in Australia. Lion Nathan is offering one of its ordinary shares for every 10 AustCon shares, and convertible preference shares.

Capital and Regional up

Transfer tops £2m

Capital and Regional

Properties

Property investment group

unveiled pre-tax profits

ahead to £248,000 in the six

months to end-June 24, up from

£151,000 last time. Earnings

per share, rise to 1.12p

(0.75p). The interim dividend

is maintained at 0.3p.

Martin Barber, the chairman,

is confident about

future prospects.

Transfer

Technology

the engineering group for-

merly known as Central &

Sheerwood, reported £2.13

million pre-tax profits (£1.35

million) in the six months to

end-June. Turnover grew 30

per cent to £29.8 million.

Geoffrey Robinson, chair-

man, said the results were

satisfactory given the eco-

nomic climate. The interim

dividend is 0.125p (0.1p).

BNB raises dividend

BNB Resources, the recruitment and communications group, is raising its interim dividend to 1.6p (1.5p), in spite of a decline in pre-tax profits to £1.26 million (£2.52 million) in the six months to end-June. David Norman, chairman, said the increased dividend reflected confidence on the group's longer-term prospects, although he remained cautious for the second half of 1991.

BNB received a boost from its cash reserves, which stood at £13 million at the end of June and generated net interest of £840,000 (£97,000). Earnings per share slipped to 3.9p (7.6p). Group turnover fell to £26.8 million (£35.4 million), but an increased market share helped to restrict the decline in operating income to £9.85 million (£11.9 million).

Bowater to buy paper firm

BOWATER

Inc of America

has agreed to acquire 80 per

cent of Great Northern Paper,

which employs about 2,200,

from Georgia-Pacific

Corporation for \$300 million

in cash. The company will also

have the right to acquire the

remainder for \$22 million

after June 30 next year.

GN's properties include

pulp and paper mills in Maine

with about 2.1 million acres of

woodlands and substantial

hydroelectric power facilities

Payout lifted

TOWN CENTRE Securities

is lifting its final dividend from

1.5p to 1.9p, making 2.8p

(2.25p) for the year to end-

June. Pre-tax profits advanced

to £6.52 million (£5.65 million).

Assets per share advanced

to 123.75p (143.31p).

Interim raised

CAMELLIA is raising its interim

dividend from 10p to 11p

despite pre-tax profits declining

to £5.22 million in the six

months to end-June (£7.14

Krupp in bid to own steel rival

KRUPP, the steelmaker at the

heart of Germany's rise as an

industrial and military power,

has taken a 24.9 per cent stake

in its Ruhr district rival,

Hoesch, and declared its

intention in acquiring a

majority by mid-1992.

Kajo Neunkirchen, who

took over as Hoesch manage-

ment board chairman only 10

days ago, said he had been

informed a few days ago of the

Krupp move, described by the

trade unions as a hostile

takeover. Herr Neunkirchen

succeeded Detlev Rohwedder,

who was murdered by urban

guerrillas last Easter.

If approved by the cartel

office, the Krupp-Hoesch tie-

up would be the first im-

NESS ROUNDUP
sells shares
IS drug firm

The citizen envisaged in the prime minister's vaunted charter is increasingly emerging as a corporate citizen. This week, Peter Lilley's trade department has offered plans to increase competition in gas and water, to be incorporated in charter laws. In both cases, the competition envisaged is almost exclusively for the business of industrial and commercial customers. Millions of individual citizens will, however, be affected. They are the mass of the public who were solicited to buy utilities from government and whose investments in the same government now seeks to damage.

They seem to have ceased to be citizens in the theoretical terms of the charter. By investing a few hundred pounds, Sid has somehow become a monopoly producer interest. This was surely not the original aim of the drive for mass share ownership. Was it not, rather, supposed to induce the citizenry to identify more closely with the welfare of the great enterprises of the land?

The proposals Mr Lilley has now accepted to curb British Gas are the most important example

Sid becomes a loser at Monopoly

COMMENT

yet of this changed perspective. The regulatory regime on which British Gas was privatised in 1986 was clearly lax, as *The Times* then argued. The framework for monopoly was preserved and little protection given to industrial customers.

This settlement is now attributed to the forceful powers of Sir Denis Cooke, then chairman of British Gas, a towering Victorian figure who had turned the corporation round from bureaucratic mire to robust prosperity. Yet the government had not hesitated to sell the corporation's oil interests over Sir Denis's struggling body.

The arguments for a more competitive structure were, and are, strong, especially for a separated transmission system to aid alternative suppliers. They were fully considered but rejected by the government, which wanted to ensure a trouble-free sale. The government was also concerned at a potential shortage

of gas and wanted to secure cheap supplies for the public.

Little has changed to alter the arguments since, least of all the government, except that money from the sale of British Gas has been safely tucked away. True, the subsequent restructuring of electricity promoted a new demand for gas, which has been supplied competitively under the 1988 monopolies commission rules. The new measures aim to ensure that some of British Gas's share of the wider industrial/commercial market is transferred to competitors. British Gas will be forced to divest important assets, in the form of gas supply contracts, to competitors. Success implies damage to British Gas.

The message from the water industry is that utilities will

continue to be under pressure so long as they deliver much real dividend growth to shareholders. The 6 per cent dividend yield on British Gas shares to some extent reflects this. The corporation must use cash flow from its main network to build low-yielding, non-regulated assets abroad.

The same cannot be said of BT, whose shares are on a comparable yield to an index-linked bond that carries none of the regulatory risk. Ordinary citizens are now entreated to consider investing more in BT. When the time comes next month, they should remember the government's gas initiative. Industrial pressure groups are pressing for a restructuring of BT on comparable lines in 1993. Heightened regulation has a competitive momentum of its own. Changes in the regime for

one utility now tend to be foisted on all, requiring a permanent discount for political risk.

Bank audit

The Bank of England has put its weight behind accounting reform with a conviction that will have some practitioners looking at their hands in embarrassment. Pen Kent, the Bank's associate director responsible for corporate affairs, argued in a speech yesterday that "auditors have sometimes not been nearly robust enough to resist accounting practices adopted by company boards which are technically within the standards but have served to bide rather than provide information".

The complaint is diplomatically attributed to others, but the message is clear. The Bank wants to back the Financial Reporting Council's efforts to

limit the discretion of management to choose misleading accounting techniques and to ensure that the same treatments are used by similar companies, even though the board rather than auditors is responsible for creative accounts.

The auditors come in because the big accounting firms have industrial specialties and often audit accounts of several companies in the same industry. Accounting standards are being tightened, but auditors must ultimately be the channel for achieving comparability.

The auditors receive support from the Bank for their campaign to reduce expectations of the accuracy or usefulness of accounts. Accounts have to be interpreted, says Mr Kent. Even City analysts, who would appear among the most sophisticated users of accounts, have poor knowledge, fail to ask intelligent questions and have to be spoon-fed by management.

The logic, however, points to auditors enhancing their role. Reducing expectations of users too far will ultimately lead to a dead end.

Doctor prescribes drastic surgery for Hawker's focusing problem

Ross Tieman
examines the
radical restyling
plans intended
to give Hawker
Siddeley a new
identity



Kill or cure: Alan Watkins plans to sell 60 per cent of Hawker's present business

HAWKER Siddeley, the engineering group under takeover threat from BTR, has embarked on one of the most radical reshapes in British corporate history.

Even the 1977 nationalisation of Hawker's aerospace and dynamics interests, accounting at the time for half of profits, pales in comparison with the plans outlined yesterday by Alan Watkins, Hawker's chief executive.

Over the next four years, if Hawker escapes takeover, Dr Watkins means to sell businesses accounting for 60 per cent of group turnover: 28,000 employees around the globe will find themselves with new bosses, very few of whom are likely to be British.

Cash from the disposals is intended to finance acquisitions which will enable the group to build up its three most successful business groups — electric motors, batteries and aero-engine maintenance — which together employ 15,000.

That, at least, is the theory. The strategy confirms the long, and widely-held view that Hawker Siddeley is an ill-focused collection of businesses long overdue for surgery, but it also opens up a debate about whether it is better to focus on businesses capable of achieving a strong position in global markets, or to rely on management skills to produce results within a broader portfolio.

Only two questions need now trouble Hawker shareholders. Who will carry through the restructuring best? And is BTR willing to pay an adequate price for the assets? For those who depend upon Hawker for their livelihoods,

the choice between Dr Watkins' global focus and the BTR approach of conglomerate management is crucial.

To understand the plight of Hawker, it is important to cast back to the dismemberment of the late Seventies. The government took Hawker's aerospace business, paid £107.8 million in compensation, and put it together with the British Aircraft Corporation (simultaneously nationalised from the ownership of Vickers and the General Electric Company) to form British Aerospace.

Hawker thought of handing the compensation to shareholders, but decided instead to spend it on acquisitions including diesel engines and electrical engineering. In the mid-Eighties, however, when business worldwide embarked on a process of reorganisation and concentration and ambitious, sometimes over-ambitious managers clambered to the top of British industry, Hawker shilly-shallied. Instead of acquiring, integrating and expanding, it merely acquired.

When, in 1989, Dr Watkins was appointed chief executive from Lucas, the company publicly acknowledged that it needed to put itself in order. Yet two years later, little change is apparent.

The restructuring plan de-

tailed as part of Hawker's defence yesterday was approved by the board a year ago, but only general pointers were released, to avoid prejudicing disposal and acquisition negotiations.

A recession is a bad time to buy and sell assets. Although 20 of Hawker's 90 businesses have been sold, Dr Watkins has divided his efforts between disposal talks and trying to make what has been run better. By the end of this year, 8,000 jobs will have been

shut worldwide as Dr Watkins and his team try to drive up efficiency.

Despite its unimpressive profit record, Hawker unquestionably has some good businesses. In electric motors, the company dominates the UK market and is equal first in Europe, with a credible position in America. The worldwide market is growing as car makers put more and more gadgets on their vehicles, and homes and offices are stuffed with air

conditioning, dish washers and other machinery.

Hawker made trading profits from electric motors last year of £36.2 million, on sales of £341 million, and claims to be the most profitable manufacturer in Europe.

In industrial batteries, Hawker claims 24 per cent of the European market and a technological lead over American rivals. Given the growing demand for protection of telecoms and computer circuits, and the long-term prospects for electric vehicles, that, too, is very attractive. Trading profits last year were £14.3 million on sales of £189 million.

Hawker's aerospace business refurbishes small aircraft engines, and is centred on Standard Aero, in Canada. Dr Watkins says Standard is now the quickest in the world at doing the work in an industry where speed is at a premium, and it is on course to cut the turnaround time from 48 days to 15 days for each engine. With sales of £297 million last year, and trading profits of £22 million, Hawker is a leading independent player in a market with good potential.

To finance expansion by organic growth and acquisition in these areas, Dr Watkins means to withdraw from other electrical engineering, railway equipment, instruments and controls and general engineering. The businesses involved have combined sales of £1.28 billion. Disposals and acquisitions would be achieved slowly so as to maximise value.

On that, Alan Jackson, BTR chief executive, agrees. Until he knows the businesses as well as Dr Watkins, he says, he cannot detail his strategy. He doubts, however, the need for such a dramatic re-shaping.

Hawker's move towards a long-term, focused approach is admirable, if overdue. But the scale and severity of its proposals must be worrying both to shareholders and employees. Dr Watkins has a brave vision. BTR has a safe pair of hands.

At the end of the day, Hawker will be transformed, whoever is in control. To withdraw from businesses on such a scale can be bold: it can be rash. And it can also be an admission of failure.

HAWKER BREAKUP
1990 turnover (millions)

THE NEW CORE	£165
Electric motors	£241
Batteries	£165
Aerospace	£207
THE DISPOSABLES	£224
General engineering	£509
Electric power	£225
Instruments and controls	£226
Fuel	£224

Water under the bridge

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

SIR Marcus Fox, the Conservative MP for Shipley, Yorkshire, may have to endure some light-hearted ribbing from colleagues at the party conference in Blackpool today over his taste in bottled mineral water. In May, he signed up as a director of Langdale Spring, a Norton, North Yorkshire, company that sells bottled water from the North York moors to health-conscious consumers. Barely five months later, however, the company has gone bust. To make matters even more embarrassing for the party, Langdale Spring, run by Tim Relfson, a former film editor for Yorkshire Television, was launched with the help of John Greenway, Conservative MP for Ryedale, who gave his blessing to the scheme. A creditors' meeting is imminent, but Revell Ward Horton of Huddersfield, the liquidator, refuses to say when. "That's your problem," snaps an unhelpful spokesman.

National loss

FORGET any possibility of losing the Ashes to England or nearly going down at rugby to Western Samoa. A real national disaster knocked a huge dent in Aussie pride yesterday. Castlemeain, XXXXX, that great symbol of macho

honey moon in the South of France with Tom Scott-Morley, Aged 34, Mr Morley, an American who once worked in the mergers and acquisitions department at Swiss Bank Corporation, is now employed by GE Capital, the project finance arm of General Electric, the American electrical giant.

originates from Queensland, Australia, and is being imported to Britain by the Indian Ocean Trading Company, run by James Hobbs, ex-Lloyd's, and Graeme Love, a former corporate financier with Laurence Prust. "We discovered them on a scouting trip in Germany," says Love, who adds that nearly half a million of the plants are being sold on the Continent each week.

Warring factions

WORD is spreading of a nasty brawl between two City gents in a pub in Wandsworth, south London, after one of England's World Cup rugby matches at Twickenham. One gent, said to have required hospital treatment after the incident, was an equity salesman for SG Warburg Securities. The other was a fund manager employed by Mercury Asset Management, which is owned by Warburg. "It was not an inter-group thing," says a harrumphing Warburg spokesman, insisting that the pair just happened to be in the pub at the same time.

CAROL LEONARD

Fortune hunters

FIVE months ago, a Lloyd's broker and a barrister went into partnership to sell giant garden parasols from Madagascar to the British public, as reported in the *City Diary* at the time. Now, they have gone a step further and are selling a tropical plant that lives on virtually nothing and has, they claim, taken the Continent by storm. The so-called Fortune Tree, which is supposed to bring happiness to the home,



ANNE Coleman, until three years ago chief press officer at the Stock Exchange — seeing it through Big Bang, the settlement saga and Black Monday — and who recently moved from Maureen Smith's Communication Group to Royle PR, has just enhanced her City connections. She returned this week from a three-week

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Farm talks could help restart Gatt

By COLIN NARROUGHE, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN trade ministers has claimed that the Bonn cabinet agreement cleared the way for a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round talks on free world trade, held under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Tim Sainsbury, Britain's trade minister, is cautiously optimistic that the ministerial gathering at The Hague today will make progress after agreement by the German cabinet, on Wednesday, on a strategy to resolve differences in agricultural policy.

The German plan could leave France, the most vigorous opponent of American demands for removing farm subsidies, isolated.

Jürgen Möllmann, the German economics minister,

In Kuala Lumpur, Carla Hills, the US trade representative and Mr Yerxa's boss, said the Community must show the political will to move the trade talks forward to ensure a stable world economic order.

"With Europe unable to talk about agriculture, the talks lost their lustre for a good portion of those at the bargaining table," she said.

The Gatt talks broke down after four years of negotiation last December, when ministers failed to break the deadlock on farm subsidies.

Hills: lost enthusiasm

Hi-Tec strides along to 10% rise

By PHILIP PANGALOS

Hi-Tec half profits at Hi-Tec Sports, Britain's leading supplier of sports shoes, raced ahead as the group continued to buck the depressed high street trend.

The company, which has a quarter of the British sports shoe market, supplying more than seven million pairs of shoes a year in Britain alone, has enjoyed greater demand for its middle-market products as disposable incomes have been squeezed.

Hi-Tec lifted pre-tax profits 10 per cent to £3.74 million in the six months to end-July, as turnover advanced 16 per cent to £64.3 million.

Frank van Wezel, chairman, is "very confident" about future prospects. He said recent investments were bearing fruit and there had been useful sales growth in Europe. Hi-Tec had benefited from increased brand awareness, boosted by advertising and sponsorship, and from a strong performance by Bad Boys, the Dutch casualwear subsidiary acquired in August 1989. Bad Boys broke even in the first half, but is expected to contribute about £1.7 million (£1.3 million) to the group's full year pre-tax profits.

Stronger demand for sports shoes and leisure products seems set to continue. "In America," Mr van Wezel said, "one in two footwear purchases are sports- or leisure-related. In Europe, that figure is one in 3.7. We have a tremendous growth factor to go for in Europe."

Sports footwear accounts for about 73 per cent of Hi-Tec's business, clothing and accessories for the remaining



Firm tread: Frank van Wezel confident on prospects

27 per cent. The company's long-term aim is a 60:40 split. It has also been looking at acquisitions.

Earnings per share rose to 6.67p (5.98p), and sharehold-

TEMPUS

Shareholders remain loyal to Invergordon

THE continued support for Invergordon Distillers in the face of a 22.5 per cent increase in the cash bid from Whyte & Mackay, the subsidiary of American Brands, says much about the quality and reputation of Invergordon's management.

W&M, whose chairman and chief executive is Michael Lunn, increased its offer by £64 million yesterday to £350 million and met with immediate and inevitable rejection from the board and from a number of the analysts who had rejected the original offer of 22.5p a share as too low.

The original 22.5p represented an exit multiple of 16.5 times Invergordon's expected earnings for this year. Since then, the group has forecast pre-tax profits of £32 million for this year, much more than analysts had estimated. The new 27.5p bid is 16.5 times forecast earnings.

The market had hoped for 20 times earnings and an offer price of 27.5p to 30p a share. By pricing at the bottom end, W&M ensured instant disappointment. Had it been 10p higher, more would have wavered.

W&M may doubt the quality of Invergordon's forecast as the City does not. W&M is perceived as needing Invergordon more than Invergordon needs W&M.

County NatWest analyst Geoff Collyer believes that shareholders speaking for about 40 per cent of Invergordon are likely to reject the increased offer.

Even with the 9.4 per cent or so W&M bought in the market yesterday, it looks like an uphill struggle for the American-backed group.

No one is pretending the Invergordon share price will remain at its current level if W&M walks away, but there are enough who believe the price will be back around 27.5p on fundamentals alone before long. County is forecasting pre-tax profits for Invergordon of £38.7 million for 1992, putting the shares



Facing another rejection: Michael Lunn, of W&M

plaints, including ordinary coughs and sneezes. The company's founder and other private shareholders will stay on board through share ownership and contacts.

The purchase, for a maximum \$77.2 million, has been arranged via a placing among institutions of 17 million Medeva shares that raises the initial \$50 million payment. Deferred payments to Adams follow until 1995.

The deal still leaves Medeva cash-positive, and should boost earnings. Medeva's pre-tax profits of \$4 million in the year ended last December have already been overtaken by pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June of \$4.02 million.

Pre-tax profits to end-December could be £14 million, putting the shares, up 19p at 224p, on a prospective multiple of 37.

The rating is ready, but the shares have come up from 59p last October to yesterday's high on investment faith, and Medeva's itch to expand is not over yet.

Medeva

MEDEVA, the independent pharmaceuticals group, obviously has a case of 77-itis.

The group paid \$77 million for one American drugs group in April, thereby securing a foothold in the States. Now it is paying \$77 million cash to buy another American company.

The purchase of Adams Laboratories, of Fort Worth, Texas, looks sensible in structure, and brings Medeva an established sales force of 140 that will expand to at least 200 by next summer, through which new product lines to America's doctors can be called.

Adams's speciality is drugs for treating respiratory com-

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey Nat 2,270	Gasbury 828	London 542	Royal Bank 869
Aldi-Lyons 2,171	CU 315	Lucas 1,855	Royal Ins 867
Anglo 817	Courtaulds 1,058	M&S 4,402	Sainsbury 1,116
ASDA 10,436	Enterprise 593	Marshall Cr 502	Sarnt 3,600
AB Foods 218	French 1,037	McDonalds 1,251	Searle 2,824
Angil 1,145	Floors 3,316	Midland 3,596	Severn Tmt 689
Arlo Wigg 1,722	Forse 822	Miller 2,307	Shell 4,831
BAA 714	GEC 4,332	Montgomery 1,165	Smith N 2,474
BET 1,556	Gen Acc 1,533	Motor 1,250	Smith W 3,755
BFI 2,290	GWG 4,658	Motor 1,250	Southern 1,250
BAT 922	Grand Met 3,784	Motor 1,250	Standard 1,250
Barclays 2,890	GTE 942	Motor 1,250	Stobart 1,250
Bass 213	GTE 'A'	Motor 1,250	Telmec 1,805
BICC 2,297	Guinness 927	Motor 1,250	Telus 414
BK Scotland 393	Hanson 1,153	Motor 1,250	Telus L 1,250
BBC Circle 1,162	Hawker 1,000	Motor 1,250	Telecom 2,172
BOC 1,610	Hillgrove 1,247	Motor 1,250	Telewest 3,361
Boots 2,004	Holmes 1,257	Motor 1,250	Thom 358
Br Amo 683	ICI 854	Motor 1,250	Trelatyer 1,850
Br Always 2,808	Inchcape 1,072	Motor 1,250	Unilever 2,982
Br British 2,290	Kingfisher 783	Motor 1,250	United 671
Br Petrol 5,460	Lambretta 1,000	Motor 1,250	Univox 908
Br Steel 11,351	Laptops 912	Motor 1,250	Univox 3,219
Br Telecom 3,721	Land Sec 832	Motor 1,250	Whitbread 1,783
C&W 1,974	LITZ 1,175	Motor 1,250	Williams 2,279
	Lloyds 2,880	Motor 1,250	Wills Cor 1,798

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	ETONBROOK	71	SIMPSON OF CORNLI	47-1
Aberforth Split (100p)	109-1	193	Fleming Energy Mkt	105
Adem & Harvey	193	193	US Smaller	105-1
Albrecht Lts	41	113	Vach Higgs	83
Alcence Res	18	18	GARDNER INC (100p)	96-2
Capital Ventures	103-2	103	Greencore	225-3
Clementon Grind (75p)	198	198	British Aerospace N/P	6
Clayton Split (100p)	101	101	Hilldown N/P	2
County Smr Inv	103-2	103	Hillmowt High Inc	112-1
Culver Higgs (40p)	103-2	5	MB Canada N/P	28
Dayton Blue Chip (100p)	102	102	Starm N/P	1+24
DFI Inc Tst (65p)	86-1	86-1	Third Mile N/P	3-1
East Germany Inv (100p)	120	120	Wills Group N/P	1
Oryx Gold	219	219	(Issue price in brackets)	

RIGHTS ISSUES

	71	SIMPSON OF CORNLI	47-1
Albion Split (100p)	292	Tolgate	105
Adem & Harvey	101	US Smaller	105-1
Alcence Res	113	Vach Higgs	83
GARDNER INC (100p)	96-2	GARDNER INC (100p)	96-2
Greencore	103	British Aerospace N/P	6
Hilldown High Inc	112-1	Hilldown N/P	2
Leicester Lts (200p)	294	MB Canada N/P	28
Manxland Inv (300p)	294	Starm N/P	1+24
Minor Group (125p)	86-1	Third Mile N/P	3-1
Moorgate Smr Cos (100p)	118-1	Wills Group N/P	1
Oryx Gold	219	(Issue price in brackets)	

JOB OPPORTUNITY IN SAUDI ARABIA

A Saudi holding company wishes to employ A GENERAL MANAGER for its Security Company

THE JOB

- To promote the Company's Services
- To Plan, Organize and help Train subordinates
- To prepare proposals to offer the Company's Services
- To analyse and identify Client's needs of Security Equipment and Systems
- To negotiate Contracts with Clients

QUALIFICATIONS

- Familiarity with the latest Security Hardware and Software
- Familiarity with Police Dogs Training Programmes
- Familiarity with Body Guard Training Programmes and guarding Banks, Shopping Centres and Industrial Facilities

THE PERSON

- An Ex-SAS, Police, or has worked in any Security Firm at high managerial level
- Able to exercise authority and inspire enthusiasm among subordinates
- Aged between 35 - 45
- Has excellent communication skills.

We offer excellent salary, and fringe benefits which include free accommodation, medical care, and transport allowances.

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GEOTEAM

The Geoteam Group of companies are primarily involved in geophysical data acquisition, navigation, seismic data processing and interpretation. Activities are both onshore and offshore, with the main clients being the major oil companies. Offices are located in Oslo, Houston, Singapore, Great Yarmouth and Aberdeen.

Geoteam Exploration Ltd, A/S and its affiliated company in the U.S. are presently expanding their 3D marine seismic exploration activity. The first high technology 3D survey vessel, Geo Explorer, has recently successfully completed her first 3D survey and the second 3D vessel, Discoverer, has recently been commissioned in the Gulf of Mexico. This expansion has created vacancies for the following positions

Party Chiefs - Applicants should have a minimum of 4 years experience within the seismic industry. Previous experience in this position is preferred.

Navigation Field Service Engineers
Instrumentation Field Service Engineers
Chief Navigation
Chief Observers

- Presently, our navigation is based on the GIN III system and our data acquisition on the Syntek 480 system.

Applicants for the above positions should have a minimum of 3 years experience within the seismic industry, preferably, but not necessarily with the above systems.

Vacancies are available for all the above positions for both Geoteam Exploration in Oslo, and its affiliated company in Houston, Texas. Successful candidates will be offered challenging opportunities and the chance to grow in a young, dynamic company. Conditions will include competitive salaries and leave schedules, along with a generous benefit plan.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Employment law sex bias justified by social policy

Regina v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission and Another

Regina v Secretary of State for Employment, Ex parte Equal Opportunities Commission Before Lord Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Judge [Judgment October 10]

The discriminatory effects of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 to part-time workers in respect of unfair dismissal and the right to statutory redundancy pay were indirectly discriminatory but could be justified since a change in the law would adversely affect the employment opportunities for part-time workers and in particular for women who wanted such work. There was therefore no breach of European Community law.

There was also no breach in respect of the less favourable treatment for part-time workers who had previously worked full-time in the calculation of statutory redundancy pay as the scheme represented an appropriate and necessary arrangement suitable for providing protection for employees if and when they became redundant.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing two applications for judicial review, the first brought by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and Patricia Elizabeth Day in respect of a

decision of the Secretary of State for Employment on April 23, 1990 and the second brought by the EOC in respect of a decision of the secretary of state on June 21, 1990.

Mr Anthony Lester, QC and Miss Monica Cars-Frisk for the applicants, Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Stephen Richards for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE NOLAN, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the conditions in question in the first application were in respect of unfair dismissal and redundancy pay. Subject to minor exceptions, the qualifying periods for acquiring rights in those matters were (a) two years of continuous employment for employees who worked for 16 hours or more a week and (b) five years of continuous employment for employees who worked for between eight and 16 hours a week.

An employee who worked fewer than eight hours a week could not qualify for any of the rights in question.

It was common ground that the vast majority of those affected by the qualifying periods were women.

His Lordship said that it was clear from the authorities that those provisions were discriminatory in their effect and in the absence of proper justification they were contrary to Community law.

The first application

The justification for the leg-

islation in its present form notwithstanding its indirect discriminatory effect was based in essence on the desirability for as many individuals as possible to be able to work and to do so for as long and in circumstances which they chose.

Employment opportunities in part-time work would be reduced by the imposition of additional burdens on part-time employment. The administrative burden of organising part-time employment was relatively greater than for full-time employees.

The existence of thresholds indicated that intervention of the kind required by the applicants would undermine the social policy embraced by the Government that as many people as possible who wanted to work should be able to do so.

In their Lordships' judgment, the discriminatory effects of the 1978 Act were not a direct consequence of its provisions but an indirect consequence of the fact that more women than men worked part-time. The secretary of state had justified the continuation of qualifying thresholds on the basis that a reduction in them would adversely affect the employment opportunities available for part-time work.

The second application

The calculation of redundancy pay involved three factors: age, length of service and the level of earnings at the moment of redundancy. The third factor underlined that it was the moment of redundancy and the problems consequent upon it which was significant and that until redundancy occurred no payment could be made.

The second application was based on the principle that, as the secretary of state accepted, that the majority of those who changed from full to part-time employment were women, the

state failed to establish the necessary objective justification for the indirect discriminatory effect of the 1978 legislation.

The secretary of state indicated that intervention of the kind required by the applicants would undermine the social policy embraced by the Government that as many people as possible who wanted to work should be able to do so.

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The second application was based on the principle that, as the secretary of state accepted, that the majority of those who changed from full to part-time employment were women, the

scheme was indirectly discriminatory.

The redundancy scheme in the United Kingdom was in principle identical for all employees who qualified. One identical factor in the calculation of redundancy payment was their rate of pay at the moment of termination of employment through redundancy.

As the scheme worked in practice, employees who changed from one form of work to another benefited or suffered detriment depending on whether the change was from part-time to full-time or vice versa.

Compared with their colleagues who had remained in full-time work or who had transferred from part-time to another form of work, employees working part-time were at a disadvantage on redundancy so far as one of the three factors included in the calculation were concerned.

Ninety per cent of those who worked part-time were women. The majority of those who changed from full-time to part-time work were women. In these circumstances, more women than men were adversely affected by the method used to calculate redundancy payments.

The present scheme had the advantage of being clear, direct and simple. The argument for the applicant was that the employee who moved to part-time work should be permitted

to accept an increased obligation to employ those with correspondingly favourable alternative skills when the numbers changing from full-time to part-time work were virtually the same as those changing the other way.

In the circumstances their Lordships concluded that the secretary of state had objectively justified the present scheme both in theory and in practice and had established that the scheme represented an appropriate and necessary arrangement suitable for providing protection for employees if and when they became redundant. Both applicants would be refused.

Solicitors: Mr J. A. Lakin, Manchester, Treasury Solicitor.

Court of Appeal

Power to direct trial of issue

Rossel NV v Oriental Commercial and Shipping (UK) Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Parker, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Mann [Judgment October 8]

On an application to make absolute an ex parte charging order nisi or to discharge it the court had power, when there was a dispute as to the beneficial ownership of the property in question, whether it was stocks, shares or land, to direct that the issue be tried and to adjourn the application until the issue was

disposed of. It might be that the evidence was such that the court could, on a hearing to show cause, decide the matter one way or the other without further ado. But if there was a disputed issue of fact which could only be resolved by the trial of the issue the claimant would have to fail for he would not have discharged the burden of proof. That would be as unjust to a judgment debtor or a third party claimant as the reverse would be to the judgment creditor.

There was a real dispute, it was necessary in order to do justice that an issue should be tried and the court could in the exercise of its power to regulate its own procedure direct such trial.

Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Mann agreed.

Solicitors: Baker & McKenzie; Holmes Campbell, Littlehampton.

Luxembourg

European Law Report

Discriminatory definition of nationality of vessels breached obligations

Commission of the European Communities, supported by Kingdom of Spain intervener v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, supported by Ireland, intervener Case C-246/89

Before Judge G. F. Mancini, acting as President, and Judges T. F. O'Higgins, J. C. Maitinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias and M. Diez de Velasco, Sir Gordon Lynn, C. N. Kakouris, R. Jollet, F. Gréville, M. Zuleeg and P. Kapitza

Advocate General J. Mischke [Opinion March 13]

[Judgment October 4]

The concept of "nationality" of ships was different from that of natural persons, however in exercising its powers for the purpose of granting its nationality to a ship, each member state had to comply with the prohibition of discrimination against national or other member states on the ground of their nationality.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in granting the European Commission a declaration that the United Kingdom had failed to fulfil its obligations under articles 7, 52 and 221 of the EEC Treaty.

Section 13(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988 provided for the establishment of a new register of British fishing vessels in which might be registered

those fishing vessels which fulfilled the conditions laid down in section 14 of that Act.

The 1988 Act entered into force on December 1, 1988 and the transitional period referred to in section 13(3) expired on March 31, 1989.

Section 14(1) of the 1988 Act provided that, except where the Secretary of State for Transport decided otherwise, a fishing vessel was to be eligible to be registered in the register only if:

(a) the vessel was British owned; (b) it was managed, and its operations were directed and controlled, from within the United Kingdom; and (c) any charterer, manager or operator of the vessel was a qualified person or company.

According to subsection (2), a fishing vessel was deemed to be British owned if the legal title to the vessel was vested wholly in one or more qualified persons or companies and if the vessel was beneficially owned by one or more qualified companies or as to not less than 75 per cent of the property therein by one or more qualified persons.

According to Section 14(7) "qualified person" meant a person who was a British citizen resident and domiciled in the United Kingdom and "qualified company" meant a company incorporated in the United Kingdom and having its principal place of business there, at least 75 per cent of its shares being owned by one or more qualified persons or companies.

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According to subsection (2), a fishing vessel was deemed to be British owned if the legal title to the vessel was vested wholly in one or more qualified persons or companies and if the vessel was beneficially owned by one or more qualified companies or as to not less than 75 per cent of the property therein by one or more qualified persons.

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According to the general rules of international law, the normal

and at least 75 per cent of its directors being qualified persons.

Since it considered that the nationality requirements laid down by the 1988 Act infringed articles 7, 52 and 221 of the Treaty, the Commission initiated proceedings under article 169 of the EEC Treaty against the United Kingdom.

On October 11, 1989, the President of the Court granted an application by the Commission for an interim order requiring the United Kingdom to suspend the application of the nationality requirements contained in the 1988 Act (246/89 R The Times October 28, 1989; [1989] ECR 3/25).

In pursuance of that order and pending judgment in the main proceedings, the United Kingdom issued an Order amending section 14 of the 1988 Act with effect from November 2, 1989.

In its judgment the Court of Justice of the European Communities held as follows:

The United Kingdom consented in the first place that the EEC Treaty could not be interpreted so as to deprive the member states of their competence to determine the nationality of their vessels, including conditions relating to the nationality of owners.

As the Court had held in its judgment in Case C-221/89 *Factortame II* (The Times September 16, 1991) as Community law stood at

Article 7

It was to be borne in mind that the Court had consistently held that article 7 applied independently only to situations governed by Community law in respect to which the Treaty laid down no specific prohibitory of discrimination.

The general prohibition of discrimination on the ground of nationality laid down in article 7 had been implemented by article 52 in the specific domain of that article, consequently, any rules incompatible with the latter provisions were also incompatible with article 7.

As to article 52 et seq. of the EEC Treaty, it was to be observed that the concept of establishment, within the meaning of the articles, involved the actual exercise of an economic activity by means of a stable establishment in another member state for an indefinite period.

Consequently, the registration of

a vessel did not necessarily involve establishment within the meaning of the Treaty, in particular where the vessel was vested in the member states. Nevertheless, powers retained by the member states were to be exercised consistently with Community law.

The question therefore arose whether the nationality requirements at issue were compatible with the rules of Community law and more particularly with articles 7, 52 and 221 of the Treaty.

Article 7

It was to be borne in mind that the Court had consistently held that article 7 applied independently only to situations governed by Community law in respect to which the Treaty laid down no specific prohibitory of discrimination.

It followed that conditions imposed on the registration of vessels were not to form an obstacle to freedom of establishment within the meaning of article 52 et seq. of the Treaty.

The United Kingdom considered that what was involved in the case was not discriminatory treatment on the ground of nationality, but conditions for the grant of nationality and that, in that domain, the member states were free to determine to whom they would grant or refuse their nationality, in the case of natural persons and ships alike.

In that connection, it had to be observed that the concept of "nationality" of ships, which were not persons, was different from that of the nationality of other member states as regards

of a vessel did not necessarily involve establishment within the meaning of the Treaty, in particular where the vessel was vested in the member states. Nevertheless, powers retained by the member states were to be exercised consistently with Community law.

Consequently, the registration of

participation in the capital of companies or firms within the meaning of Article 58.

The United Kingdom considered that the nationality requirements introduced by the 1988 Act were justified by the present Community rules on fishing.

Those rules, although establishing a common system, were based on a principle of nationality for the purpose of the allocation of fishing quotas.

Consequently, in exercising its powers for the purpose of defining the conditions for the grant of its "nationality" to a ship, each member state had to comply with the prohibition of discrimination against nationals of member states on the ground of their nationality.

It followed from the foregoing that the contested nationality requirements, according to which natural persons who owned or chartered a vessel and its shareholders and directors, had to have British nationality in order to enable a vessel to be registered in the British register of fishing vessels, were contrary to article 52.

Article 221

It had to be stated that the contested nationality requirements, in so far as they related to the control of companies, were contrary to article 221, which imposed on the member states the obligation to accord nationality of the other member states the same treatment as their own nationals as regards

participation in the capital of companies or firms within the meaning of Article 58.

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Consequently, the registration of

Drivers smooth-talked into deals

Kevin Eason describes the telephone tactics of computer list companies that offer to sell your car and then demand to be paid

Roy Scott was watching television with his family one evening when the telephone rang. The caller had seen his car advertised in the local paper and was offering to help to sell it by putting it on a computer register. Mr Scott was enthusiastic when he was told he could be given a free holiday in Spain if the computer register company failed to sell his car within a month.

The £39.90 fee also appeared reasonable, but Mr Scott says: "It all seemed too good to be true, so I asked for written details so that I could consider the offer." He refused to give his credit card number but confirmed that the sale details in the paper related to his Rover 3500.

Twenty minutes later the telephone rang again. It was a second caller from the computer register company asking for confirmation of his details. Again, Mr Scott asked for written details but was refused and says he ended the call without making a commitment.

A week later, a bill for £74.60 dropped on the doormat of his south London home. If he paid within seven days, that would be

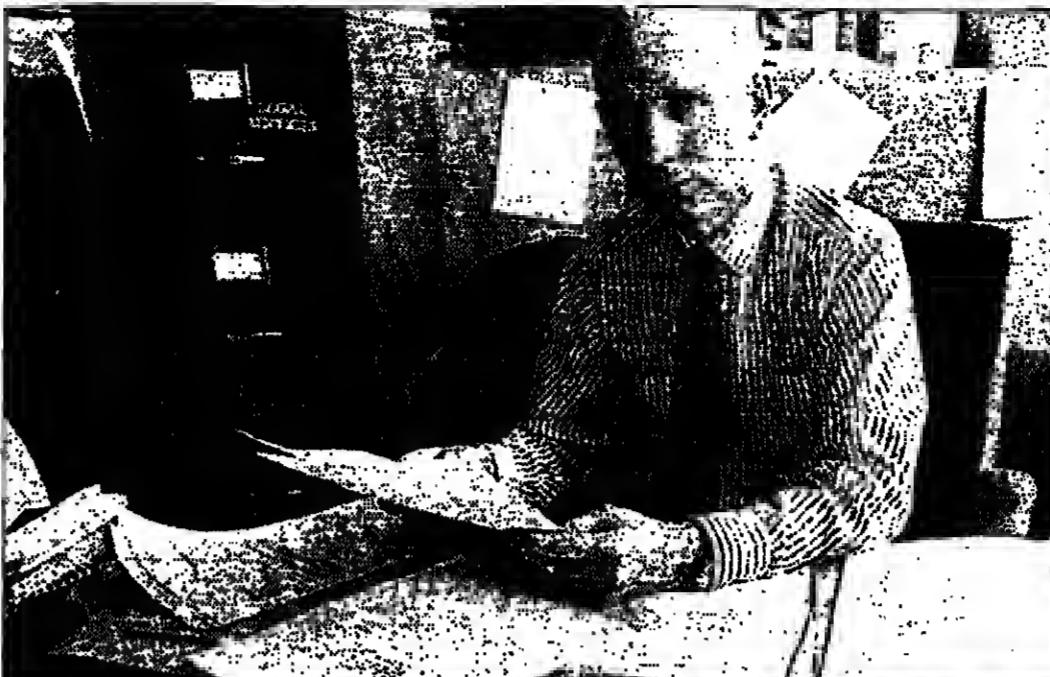
discounted to £39.90. Mr Scott says: "I thought it was ridiculous. I had no idea how these people were going to help me or who they were, apart from these telephone calls, so I decided to ignore the whole thing." Another week on, a second invoice arrived. A third one came ten days later. The fourth communication was from a debt collection agency. The fifth was from a solicitor threatening legal action.

These letters were followed by some recorded delivery letters, which Mr Scott refused to accept. He suspected they were further threats of legal action, even though the computer register company did not sell his car, nor did he ever meet any of their representatives.

A year later, Mr Scott is unwilling to name the company for fear of being caught up again in a long and worrying legal tangle over a bill for services he neither requested nor received.

His file is with the Automobile Association among a growing number of complaints about telephone canvassers who encourage motorists to make contracts they may not want over the telephone.

Mike Watkins, the AA's head of legal advice, is warning motorists selling their cars to take care if they



Cases pending: the complaints cover the desk of Mike Watkins, the AA's head of legal advice

dossier of complaints from motorists who believe the canvassers unfairly cajoled them into a deal they did not want.

In some cases, people will pay because, unlike Mr Scott, they bow to the pressure and shame of being chased by a debt collection agency.

Mike Watkins, the AA's head of legal advice, is warning motorists selling their cars to take care if they

receive any canvassing calls. He says: "Some people would be brow-beaten into paying for a service they know little of, and the charges can be quite high. We must advise motorists not to get into a position where they are making a contract over the telephone."

The grey area in these cases is

the owner's intention to be

contractually bound. Some

motorists may be baffled to know they have made a contract at all, thinking they had merely started negotiations and that written documents would come later.

The canvassing companies do

not see it that way. Car Search

2000, the biggest of the companies

operating the computer search

scheme, says that once a deal has

been made there is "no cancella-

tion without payment". Sheila

Davies, the office manager at the

company's headquarters in Rhyd,

Clwyd, denies there is pressure on

customers. She says the owner

may agree to put his car on the

computer during the initial tele-

phone call. The car owner then has

20 minutes to consider the deal

before a second call is made to

confirm or cancel.

She says Car Search, which has

about 2,000 cars on its register,

advertises in national newspapers

and magazines and charges are

levied according to the sale price of

the car: £35.90 for a car between

£500 and £1,500, for example, up

to £55.90 for a car costing £5,000.

Car Search deals with up to 300

buyers daily through its computer

register. If the car has not been sold

in a month, customers are offered

vouchers for two tickets for a flight

to Malta or the Balearic or Canary

Islands. The customer still has to

pay for accommodation, although

a deal arranged by Car Search cuts

the price to £12 a night, she says.

A holiday in the sun may have

led to many satisfied Car Search

customers. For dozens of others

the experience with computer

register companies has not been so

happy, leading to "scores of complaints", the OFT says.

The OFT is investigating in-

dividual cases and could be look-

ing at the Fair Trading Act of 2000,

which outlaws "practices contrary

to the public interest" and could

cover these telephone contracts.

ROADWISE

Lessons for lone women

WOMEN's fears about driving alone have prompted Toyota to start security workshops. The company's dealers are offering sessions to give a few rules and instruction on simple mechanics to help with breakdowns. Toyota is also offering to quell fears over vehicle security by selling alarms, starting at £59. Owners buying an alarm will get a 5 per cent discount on Toyota insurance.

Fast finance

BROOKLANDS, the world's first purpose-built motor racing course, is trying to raise £100,000 to take it into the next century. The effort starts on Sunday with a picnic for MG owners, who are invited to



bring hampers and spend a day by the track. Stirling Moss, the former grand prix driver, will be a guest. Ordered tickets are £7 a car, including two people, plus £3.50 for additional adults and £1.50 for children.

Fair exchange

A NORWEGIAN photographer, Per Lochen, owned one of only three pilot production Range Rovers in existence. The British Motor Industry Heritage Trust at Studley, Warwickshire, offered him a new one, worth more than £25,000, in return for his vintage model, which will stand in the museum, owned by Rover. The vehicle joins the first Land-Rover, the millionth Land-Rover produced and the first Discovery from the Land-Rover stable.

Lada picks up

LADA has made a strong come-back after a disappointing start to the year, thanks to the offer of a £250 cheque to new owners after sale and £99 comprehensive insurance. Sales, at 11,711 in the first nine months, are well below the 18,956 at the corresponding stage last year but Lada says its performance is now improving.



Sleeker than ever: technology helps the Astra to hold the road

Trade: 071-481 4422
Private: 071-481 4000

Vauxhall goes to town on quality

MOTOR companies can cut prices to beat the competition or they can produce the best model on the market. Kevin Eason writes.

Vauxhall has tried to make its Astra an irresistible choice for buyers with a car that bristles with desirable performance, security and green features.

At first sight, the Astra is no mould-breaker, but it is sleeker than its predecessor and all-round vision has been much improved. The important business, however, is under the bonnet and in the passenger cabin.

The security package is the best on the market in this class of car. A double turn of the key in the door drops deadlocks in doors, petrol filler cap and boot lid, ensuring that even if a window is smashed to gain entry, the interior handles cannot be tripped to open the doors. In addition, there is a clever

new stereo radio-cassette in which the working set is built into the dashboard but separately from a liquid crystal display. Trying to take it would hardly be worth the enormous time and bother.

New side impact beams give protection and occupants are cooed in a cabin that boasts extremely comfortable front seats, although rear leg room is tight. Comfort is enhanced by pollen filters and an air recirculation system, which prevent fumes and dust from entering the cabin.

Drivers will like the clear dashboard and easy-to-reach switch-gear. The potentially biggest seller, the 1.4i hatchback, shows no lack of zip, even though it now uses a catalytic converter as standard. Acceleration is rapid and the engine quiet, even when slipping

ROADTEST

150 brake horsepower GSi 16v is the barnstormer with a 0 to 62mph acceleration time of eight seconds and a 137mph top speed. I tested the car on country roads in pouring rain, proving excellent road adhesion thanks to a new electronic traction control system.

The most interesting model

could be the 1.7-litre turbo-diesel

out due next year. It is remarkably quiet on the move, yet its driving characteristics could almost be those of a petrol car.

The Astra looks as though it

could topple the Ford Escort from

its now traditional position as

Britain's best-selling compact car.

The Escort is still running with an old engine range until the more

powerful and economical Zeta

engines enter in the spring. That

gives the Astra a big lead in driving pleasure and performance as well as features, such as security and catalytic converters, for which most companies charge £200 to £300. The word will soon reach fleet and private buyers to make the Astra one of the most sought-after small cars.

The range has 36 hatchback and estate models, and saloons are to come next spring. There are six engine sizes from a 1.4i (60bhp) to a 2.0i (150bhp). Sample figures for hatchbacks include:

Astra 1.4i (60bhp): 0 to 60mph in 16 seconds, top speed 99mph, fuel economy 32.5 miles to the gallon around town.

1.7TD diesel: 0 to 60mph in 13.5

seconds, top speed 107mph, fuel economy 39.8mpg own

2.0i (150bhp): 0 to 60mph in 9.5

seconds, top speed 121mph, fuel economy 26.9mpg in town.

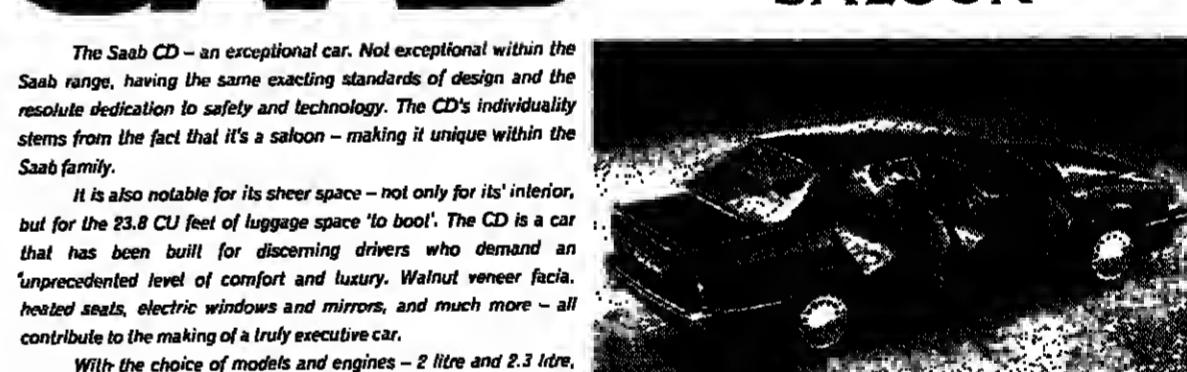
Continued on page 34

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With the choice of models and engines – 2 litre and 2.3 litre, injection and turbo models – ranging from the CDi to the sports

Carlsson, the decision is definitely an executive one.

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DEALER

Dealership, NW1 4JL

Matchmakers glad of help in smoothing the investment path

By DEREK HARRIS

ENCOURAGEMENT for bringing together investors and small businesses is needed of modest amounts of equity capital, announced this week by Michael Howard, the employment secretary, has been welcomed by those already in the field as a potentially fruitful initiative.

Among them is LINC, the local investment networking company, which has under its wing a dozen local enterprise agencies operating financial "marriage bureaux" aimed at small business.

LINC has for some years been encouraging the emergence of "business angels". Typically, these are already successful entrepreneurs keen to invest both cash and personal effort in encouraging a newcomer.

This year, the network has seen the placing of £310,000 in seven investments around the country, a third up on last year.

However, LINC has been weak in some areas, particularly rural ones. The Howard plan will go further by bringing marriage brokering on to a regional basis, initially in five areas.

These will be in Bedfordshire, Calderdale and Kirklees, Devon and Cornwall, east Lancashire and south and east Cheshire.

Fiona Conoley, LINC's general

manager, suggests a further improvement could be to change business expansion scheme rules so that its tax breaks could apply to the typical angel who wants to work in the business as well as a potentially fruitful initiative.

At 3i, Britain's biggest venture capital provider, Marc Gillespie, a director covering the South of England, applauds business angels because their expertise lessens risks in a young business. 3i is keen to strengthen its traditional role in helping new businesses.

The training yard's forte is point-to-point racing, but it also targets the Foxhunter Chases at National Hunt meetings. To keep a racehorse in a training establishment to race under rules can cost £200 or more a week, often with vet and farrier bills, travelling costs and jockey fees extra.

Anna said: "We have had owners coming to us this year who just cannot afford to spend that kind of money on their hobby any longer. We offer a cheaper alternative and are particularly keen on stabling point-to-point horses owned by syndicates."

Anna pioneered this latter scheme herself; there are already two horses in the yard owned by business syndicates. A new venture this winter has businesses being invited to have their horse

Broomford backs a winner

By VERONICA HEATH

THE recession in the racing and bloodstock industry has brought clients knocking on the stable door at Broomford farm, near Chathill in Northumberland. Anna Baker Cresswell runs a budget-priced thoroughbred training yard there with her partner, Colin Hall.

They joined forces a year ago to combine Anna's business talents and four years' experience working with racehorses in Australia with Colin's expertise handling young stock and preparing horses for the point-to-point circuit. He has an impressive record of 76 per cent of his runners placed in point-to-point over five years.

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Anna said: "We have had owners coming to us this year who just cannot afford to spend that kind of money on their hobby any longer. We offer a cheaper alternative and are particularly keen on stabling point-to-point horses owned by syndicates."

One of the problems of a rural business is letting people know you exist. Anna consequently spends a large part of her time promoting Broomford, while she also does all the books. This allows Colin to spend most of his time in the saddle.



Racing ahead: Anna Baker Cresswell, with one of her charges

BRIEFINGS

THE English Tourist Board has produced a guide setting out the rules on when bed and breakfast establishments need to pay business rates. The recent six-guest rule, which can free an establishment of business rates, is reviewed. Rights of appeal against rating decisions and the appeals procedure are explained. The guide, *Bed & Breakfast and the New Business Rates*, is available free from regional tourist boards in England or the ETB (Department D), 24 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0ET.

■ Thirty new franchise offerings will feature at the autumn National Franchise Exhibition, which opens for three days next Friday at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre. A total of 125 franchisors will be there and 12,000 visitors are expected, the same as last year. The British Franchise Association, which sponsors the exhibition, is running free seminars during the event offering advice that should be especially helpful to those fresh to the field. Subjects include choosing and financing a franchise and legal points to watch.

■ Seminars to help small businesses prepare for economic upturn start next Wednesday at Greater London Enterprise's training centre at Newington Causeway, SE1. A seminar about company cars costs £70, others £47 each. Details: phone 071 403 0300.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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EQUESTRIANISM

Skelton and his Major Wager pay dividends

By JENNY MACARTHUR

NICK Skelton extended his lead in the prize money table at this week's Horse of the Year Show when he and Alan Paul Major Wager won the Equiso Top Score yesterday.

It was the third win of the week for the Warwickshire-based rider, aged 32. Less than 12 hours earlier he had added £4,500 to his purse with a stirring win on Phoenix Park in the Henderson Leading Jumper of the Year event.

Victory yesterday came at the expense of John Whitaker for the second time this week. Major Wager has been rested since the Royal Show in July but he is not a horse who needs much warming up.

Picking his way economically round the 12 fences, he finished on a score of 1,160 points. Whitaker, on the fast Henderson Fonda, was only 20 points behind. Johnny Harris, who missed selection for the North American tour last month, took third place on Paradise Peppermill.

Harris has had one of his best seasons and was the leading rider at the Royal International. But he is nursing several grievances.

He applied unsuccessfully for three Nations Cup shows this summer. "It's very difficult to get abroad," he said, "especially when many of the foreign shows obviously go for the big names." The three shows he applied for — Dublin, San Marino and the North American circuit — are three of the most popular.

Harris is also annoyed at the way the three major indoor shows, at Birmingham, Wembley and Olympia, keep changing their qualifications. "When you are running business which relies heavily on getting to these shows it's frustrating to have the qualifications changing each year." Harris has 50 horses at his Hampshire-based riding school.

Skelton, who had little difficulty getting to his preferred shows, would like to see riders qualifying for Wembley, rather than horses. He had to leave one of his best young horses, Werra, at home because the mare was bought only this summer and there was not time to qualify her.

SNOOKER

Parrott a class above

JOHN Parrott conducted a performance to extend his unbroken sequence in ranking events to 19 matches.

Parrott did enjoy two aces of luck. In the third frame he potted the clinching blue on his sixth attempt, falling safe on his five misses, and in the sixth he flicked the yellow to launch a clearance.

Dated duty free classic semi-final: J Parrott (Eng) vs P Davies (Wsl). Score 56-21, 72-47, 70-72, 78-67, 60-47.

The world champion compiled breaks of 80, 34, 37, 52, and 56 during a dominant

History of Art Branch I

BA

History of Art Branch III

Religious Studies (Revised Regulations)

Religious Studies (Revised Regulations)

Social Administration

Cauthen lines up Ascot double

STEVE Cauthen can be given a bright chance of landing a double at Ascot today on Silver Braid (3.05) and Red Bishop (4.15). In going for Silver Braid to win the listed Moss Bros October Stakes, I am disregarding her form in the middle of the season when she completely lost her way in a manner that still baffles her trainer, David Elsworth.

I am banking on her repeating the form she showed at Newbury in April and again last time out at Doncaster last month. At Newbury, Silver Braid was a highly creditable second in the Fred Darling Stakes to the subsequent 1,000 Guineas winner Shadoid with fillies of the calibre of Chicarita, Lee Ariste and Only Yours behind her.

At Doncaster, Silver Braid looked the likely winner of another listed event, the Scap-

over today's course and distance.

John Gosden, the successful Newmarket-based trainer, made three entries for the Moss Bros Stakes and I find it significant that he has chosen to rely upon the highly-rated and consequently hard to rate Red Bishop, even though he has been set to carry 9st 4lb in his first handicap.

Red Bishop was an impressive winner of a maiden race at Haydock a fortnight ago. As that was his first race of the season he will strip fresher than most.

At least the handicapper has been able to get to grips with Viron Venture and The Glesha, who finished first and second in a similar race run over today's course and distance on the same day.

Later in the programme, Gosden's booking of the sea-

son's leading apprentice Darrell Holland for Nades in the Mayflower Stakes looks highly relevant.

In going nap on Red Rain-

bow to win the Wyndham Handicap I am aware that he has never tackled today's dis-

tance of two miles. However, I

believe that the risk is worth taking because Red Bishop

has been running so strongly at the end of his two

races over 12 furlongs that he

has appeared ready for today's longer trip.

Although outclassed by Sur-

realist at Newmarket a week

ago, he still managed to finish

ahead of horses of the calibre

of Libk, Clare Heights, Aimaam and Torchio. A

repetition of that form over

this oce trip should suffice.

As far as the Duke of Edin-

burgh Stakes is concerned, my best information

concerns the Peter Chapman

Hyam-trained Juiper Berry,

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Last Sunday, Generous

widely acclaimed as one of the

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Races, was in the lead.

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Asmussen said: "That early race

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Cole puts Champion back on agenda for Generous

By MICHAEL SEELY

PAUL Cole intends to work Generous at the weekend before deciding whether he will attempt to make amends for his disappointing performance in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe by running in the Dubai Champio Stakes at Newmarket tomorrow.

"We don't believe his running in the Arc," Anthony Penfold, Prince Fahd Salman's racing manager said yesterday from Ireland. Cole and Penfold flew straight from France to Ireland for the Goffs yearling sales and have yet to see for themselves how Generous took the race.

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The solitary exception to this, of course, was the running of Pistolet Bleu, who stayed on gallantly to finish third after being well-placed throughout.

But much of this looks like a new chapter in an old story. In recent years, apart from Generous, Reference Point, Moto and Salabat have all failed to win the Arc after arduous British campaigns.

For the record books, both In The Groove and Legal Case ran disappointingly in the Arc before returning to form with Champion Stakes victories.

However, Nijinsky, the last Derby winner to attempt to win the Newmarket group one test after an Arc failure, finished second to Lorenzaccio in the Champion Stakes after being narrowly defeated by Sassafras in Paris. The omens are not encouraging and the likelihood must remain that Generous has run his last race.

□ Suave Dancer leads Generous by 32 points in the inaugural Carrier Horse Of The Year award. The table is based on pattern race performances throughout the season.

York treble seals Gosden revival

By MICHAEL SEELY

RACING yesterday paid tribute to the memory of Bryan Marshall, the former champion National Hunt jockey, who died on Wednesday at the age of 75 (Michael Seely writes).

John Gosden, the chairman of York's a formidably talented group of the Jockey Club and also a noted amateur rider of his day, said: "Together with Martin Molloy, Fred Winter and John Francoise, Bryan was one of the four best jump jockeys I've ever seen. He was a superb horseman and was also a tremendous judge of pace."

The two highlights of Marshall's career were his partnership with Dorothy Page and Fuke Walwyn and also his association with Vincent O'Brien, which produced consecutive Grand National victories on Early Mist and Royal Tan in 1953 and 1954.

His courage was as legendary as his determination to yield the inside start to no one. A personal highlight of his riding was the 1954 Grand National, when he rode the 100-1 outsider Shandebis to a 10-length victory in a breakaway race.

Steve Cauthen had set the

style in Newbury (1m 22) to 8m 6 lengths with Suave Dancer in 1990, and followed that up with a 10-length win in 1991.

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Cooke calls on his England players to raise their game as the World Cup starts the last phase of pool matches

Americans seeking to bow out in style

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE involvement of the United States in the World Cup will end after this afternoon's match against England at Twickenham, but to one respect they will have done better than New Zealand, the holders of the Webb Ellis Cup: they will have filled Twickenham, which the All Blacks were unable to do — if only by a couple of hundred — when they opened the tournament against England last week.

The Rugby Football Union expects a sell-out crowd of 57,500 (a figure which does not include the hospitality boxes) for the penultimate Pool 1 match, which England must win for their own self-esteem, not to mention their place in the quarter-finals next weekend. That will be a record for a game against a non-international Board country, and a far cry from 1979, when



a few thousand turned out to see the only previous appearance at Twickenham by a fully representative American XV.

Ominously, Geoff Cooke emphasised yesterday that England have yet to reach the quality of performance to which they aspire. On top of that, several of today's team are aware that this may be their only appearance in the World Cup and will wish to make the most of it; a smaller number — at the most — may see a place in the quarter-final XV as within their grasp.

Not that the Eagles, whose team list became somewhat confused on Wednesday night and suggested, among other things, that Brian Vizard's elbow injury had improved sufficiently for him to lead the team at Twickenham (it has not), are turning up to act as cannon fodder. The six Englishmen who played in the 34-6 victory in Sydney in the 1987 World Cup will remember them as being big, hard-tackling opponents.

"We don't like being caught up in close, tight situations, like a boxer in a clinch," Jim Perkins, the Eagles coach, said. "We want to get away from the scrummaging, we like to play the ball wide. But we do spend a lot of time working on our defence because we know we will get little ball from the top countries.

"Americans are super-tackers when they are in the right frame of mind, and we try to create things from that defence. But overall I have 26 guys who are delighted to be in the World Cup, and delighted to be going up against two of the world's best."

The first of those, New Zealand, were clearly disconcerted by the enthusiasm of the American approach at Gloucester on Tuesday, before stretching away to their 46-6 win. England can expect more of the same but Cooke, the team manager, wants the discipline and cohesion which ensured that Tuesday's match with Italy was won within the first quarter.

Simon Hodgkinson will enjoy a return to the arena where, seven months ago, he was a grand-slam hero, and Simon Halliday a return to international rugby after spending much of 1990 uncertain whether a chronic ankle condition would even allow him to play again. John Oliver, the Northampton hooker, plays only his second international, his first was against Argentina last year.

After today, England take stock: the squad, and their families, will spend the weekend in St Breloge in Jersey, a recreational period before flying to Monday to Paris, the assumption being that the final round will see New Zealand finish as Pool 1 winners and England runners-up.

Meanwhile, Jason Hewett, a student in Auckland, will win



Front-row features: Oliver, the England hooker, in delightful form with the ball in hand at training yesterday

Coverage by ITV proves anything but all Greek

By DAVID HANDS

THE Greeks, they say, have a word for it, although I am not too sure what their word is for a team in the Midlands which gave its name in sport. At all events, Greece is among the countries which have shown an interest in the televising of the Rugby World Cup, which, on Wednesday evening, reached the halfway mark of 16 matches.

Rugby rules out a game immediately associated with Greece, no more is Austria known as a hothead of the sport, yet Austrian television is negotiating for a programme of highlights from the final on November 2 — so long as an introductory programme will be provided which will tell their viewers what the game is all about.

More than 60 countries are taking television signals from the tournament. On Wednesday, the busiest day with five matches being played, ITV received three calls from the United States asking for further coverage. Yet all the while ITV Sport is on trial because for the first time it is showing a game which has always been associated with the BBC and which has never attracted an audience of more than six million.

The viewing figures for the opening game of the tournament, England v New Zealand, are likely to be available early next week. Not that cold statistics are the only measure of success which Bob Burrows, the head of ITV Sport, is prepared to recognise: "The

marvellous thing for me is how the broadcast team has come together from a standing start."

"My view is that we will have a good World Cup if we show we can cover the game with authority and with quality. It is particularly important for us to demonstrate that, after the loss of the domestic contract, when the judgement of the home unions was that the BBC was the only one which could show it."

So far, it has been a good World Cup for the ITV team. The operation, costing £7 million, involves the laying of 4,500 miles of cable, the use of 12 satellites to beam pictures round the world, 20 outside broadcast units and nearly 1,000 people throughout the network, of whom 300 are at Teddington, the heartbeat of the whole operation.

But bare logistics do nothing to indicate the ordered frenzy which exists beside the Thames on such a day as Wednesday, when the first of five matches began at 1pm in Pontypool and the last at 8pm in Cardiff, with visits in between to Edinburgh, Dublin and Toulouse.

In one sense, it was a straightforward day since five action occupied so much of the air time. In another, it was a frantic operation to pare down four matches into a package of scoring highlights to follow the last game of the day, Wales v Argentina.

Constant readjustments

must be made when a match goes into injury time. "You have one minute 36 seconds for chat if you don't overrun your one minute 45 seconds now," a studio assistant stopwatch in hand, informs Frank Bough — the eye of the storm, you might say. She is only one of several voices that Bough hears as he prepares for his next link in the studio presentation.

Admission for Bough's professionalism is hugely enhanced by a visit to ITV headquarters. The ease with which he sustains the flow of information, of comment while responding to a non-stop barrage of instructions in his earpiece is ample justification for ITV's revival of the role which he occupied for so many years with BBC's Grandstand.

Brough admits his team is learning all the time. The tendency to re-run action when the game is proceeding has been noted and cured. The use of so many cameras (14 for some games) is an art form but he is immensely pleased to have launched what he believes is a new generation of commentators and to have gained credibility for a sport which many in Britain thought ITV might treat frivolously.

Any organisation whose head of site operations is named Steve McDowell, — same spelling, even, as the All Blacks prop — must have something going for it when it comes to rugby union.

Scotland stay the same for decider

By ALAN LORIMER

SCOTLAND have selected the side that defeated Japan 47-9 for the decider match in Pool 2 against Ireland at Murrayfield tomorrow but have made two changes in the replacements.

Before the game with Zimbabwe on Wednesday, which was won 51-12, Duncan Pater-son, the Scotland manager, indicated there were still certain positions open to competition for the Ireland match. In reality, the only debatable position was at lock, where the choice rested between Doddie Weir and Damian Cronin.

In the event, Cronin did nothing exceptional against Zimbabwe to convince the selectors that he would add to Scotland's lineout performance. Weir, a mobile forward and genuine jumper, has been retained to partner Chris Gray.

The only real worry for the Scotland management has been the fitness of Tony Stanger, who limped off the field on Wednesday after sustaining a knee injury. He has been examined by an orthopaedic surgeon and passed fit.

The two changes in the Scotland replacements are Graham Shiel for Douglas Wyllie and Alan Watt for David Milne. Shiel provides more adequate cover at stand-off and, as an inside centre, has the advantage of playing alongside Craig Chalmers in club rugby. Watt's promotion is thoroughly deserved and, according to Pater-son, was "on merit".

SCOTLAND: G Hastings (Wasps); A G Stanger (Harlequins); S Hastings (Wasps); D Wyllie (London Wasps); G Armstrong (Leeds); G M B Sole (Edinburgh Academicals); J Allen (Edinburgh Academicals); D Milne (London Scottish); J Jeffrey (Kosci); C A Gray (Nottingham); G W Web (Leicester); F Cade (Sheffield Wednesday); O B Waddell (Sheffield Wednesday); P W Dods (Glasgow); A G Marshall (Sale); A J Watt (Glasgow); K A Mair (Harlequins' F.P.).

Irish keep faith in Mullin

By BRYAN STILES

IRELAND kept faith with Brendan Mullin, their record try-scorer, when making seven changes for the match against Scotland at Murrayfield tomorrow. The game will decide who occupies the all-important first place in Pool 2.

Mullin, omitted from the opening game against Zimbabwe, showed with one electrifying, try-creating burst against Japan that he has a talent that cannot be ignored.

He will have Simon Geoghegan as his right-wing partner with Keith Crossan on the other wing, cleared after having an ankle x-rayed.

All six forwards rested for the game against Japan return. Neil Francis, in whom much of Ireland's lineout ambitions are invested, has a bruised thigh but was given the go-ahead to play, although neither he nor Crossan trained yesterday.

FRANCE stay with the same team

Agan — France yesterday announced an unchanged side for their game against Canada on Sunday (Chris Thau writes).

Daniel Dubroca, the France coach, said that the game against the Canadians should serve France well as a rehearsal for their projected quarter-final match against England in Paris. France is a little England. They play a similar type of rugby, he said.

"We did make progress, and this is reflected in the consistency of our selection, but there is still a lot to be done and that's why we kept the side together."

The decision to maintain an unchanged side is risky if a player is injured late in the competition, but Dubroca seemed confident that the 16 used so far could carry on "I haven't seen yet a player exhausted after a game. They are incredibly fit."

TEAM: B Biarritz, J Steiner, S Geoghegan, A Mullin, O Cuthbert, K Crossan, P Kavanagh, S Studdard, N Poppelwell, S Smith, O Fitzgerald, P Matthews (Leeds), O Lanhant, N Pritchard, D Wilson, S Robinson, P McConville, K Murphy (Cork), G O'Brien, T Kingston, C Healy, N Merton.

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ENGLAND		UNITED STATES	
S D Hodgkinson	15	Full back	R B Nelson
(Nottingham)		(St. Louis)	15
N J Hepop	14	Right wing	G M Shore
(Oswestry)		(Orlando)	14
W D C Cartling*	13	Right centre	M A Williams
(Hartlepool)		(Gentlemen of Japan)	13
S J Halliday	12	Left centre	K G Higgins
(Hartlepool)		(Orlando)	12
R Underwood	11	Left wing	P Sheehy
(Leicester)		(Washington DC)	11
C R Andrew	10	Stand-off	C P O'Brien
(Worcester)		(Orlando)	10
R J Hill	9	Scrum half	M D Pidcock
(Barnet)		(Philadelphia)	9
J Leonard	1	Prop	L Manga
(Hartlepool)		(South Jersey)	1
C J Oliver	2	Hooker	A W Flay
(Nottingham)		(Lancaster)	2
G S Pearce	3	Prop	N Mottram
(Worcester)		(Glasgow)	3
M G Skinner	6	Flanker	S Lippman
(Nottingham)		(Santa Monica)	6
N C Redman	4	Lock	C E Tunnicliffe
(Bath)		(Belmont Shore)	4
W A Dooley	5	Lock	K R Rouse
(Preston Choristers)		(Beacon Hill)	5
G W Rees	7	Flanker	R Farley
(Nottingham)		(Philadelphia)	7
D Richards	8	No. 8	A M Ridnell
(Leicester)		(Orlando)	8
Referee: L J Peard (Wales)		Captain	
REPLACEMENTS: 16 E A Whittaker (Orlando)			
17 M G Dalgarno (Denver)			
18 C O Morris (Orlando)			
19 P A G Rendell (Leicester)			
20 S C Moore (Hartlepool)			
21 P J Asford (Hartlepool)			

England and the United States have met only once before at full international level, in the last World Cup four years ago. The Americans won 20-17, with tries from Peter Winterbottom (2), Wade Dooley and Mike Henson (1), Jonathan Webb (2), Derek Wyatt (4), John Scott and John Cartleton and five conversions and a penalty by David Hare. In 1987, England won 20-17, with tries from Andrew Hill, Dooley, Richards and Rees (2) and United States three — Nelson, Hein and Higgins.

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Farr-Jones winning battle

By PETER BILLS

THE Australia captain, Nick Farr-Jones, could be fit for their quarter-final on October 20, most probably against Ireland in Scotland in Dublin.

Farr-Jones limped into breakfast at the team's Cardiff hotel yesterday after spending the night with a pack on his injured medial ligament in his right knee. But the coach, Bob Dwyer, was optimistic about Farr-Jones' chance of recovery.

"Nick has shown he is a fast healer and I would back him to prove it again this time," Dwyer said. "He is saying he will be all right for the quarter-final and I know him well enough not to disagree. It's not as serious as we

first feared and Nick has demonstrated in the past he can beat the odds with this type of injury."

Wales, who play Australia at Cardiff tomorrow, retreated to their rehabilitation centre at Brecon yesterday after their victory over Argentina. Mourning their team for the match, which was three months after the 63-6 defeat they suffered in Brisbane, will be a problem, according to the Wales coach, Alan Davies. "The hardest thing will be calming them down, control the motivation they have," he said. "They feel they have a point to prove against Australia and are desperate to get started."

THE AUSTRALIA CAPTAIN

Pool 1

P W D L F A Pts
New Zealand 2 2 0 0 64 18 6
England 2 2 0 0 1 35 45 4
Italy 2 1 0 1 35 45 4
United States 2 0 0 2 15 76 2

RESULTS: England 12, New Zealand 12; Italy 30, United States 9; New Zealand 12, United States 9; New Zealand 12, United States 9; England 26, Italy 8

FIXTURES: Today: England v United States (Twickenham, 3pm). Oct 13: New Zealand v Italy (Leicester, 3pm).

Pool 2

P W D L F A Pts
Scotland 2 2 0 0 98 21 6
Ireland 2 2 0 0 87 27 6
Japan 2 0 2 1 25 79 2
Zimbabwe 2 0 2 1 23 105 4

RESULTS: Scotland 47, Japan 32; Ireland 17, Zimbabwe 12; Scotland 51, Zimbabwe 12

FIXTURES: Tomorrow: Scotland v Ireland (Murrayfield, 1.30pm). Oct 14: Zimbabwe v Japan (Bellfield, 3pm).

Pool 3

P W D L F A Pts
Australia

Preparing to board the plane for Paris



Andrew: quietly optimistic of further progress in cup

THE first week of the 1991 World Cup is over and the England camp is in quiet, if optimistic, mood. We are going along quite well in what we seek to do and the first stage will be completed with the match against the United States today, our last pool game. Assuming things go as predicted, both for ourselves and France this weekend, then we board the plane for Paris on Monday afternoon to prepare for the quarter-final.

We will go into that match having learned at least one valuable lesson from the All Blacks, who defeated us in the first game of the tournament; namely, how to kill off a game once you get ahead. We just couldn't get back into that match because they played a very disciplined, very effective and clever All Black type of game.

Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, reflects on the first week of the Rugby World Cup as the team plans for its final pool match against the United States today

Quite honestly, we were disappointed with the way we played. The occasion got to us. The game itself didn't live up to the occasion, which is often the case when a match is built up so much.

As for the *haka*, we couldn't hear the All Blacks performing it because of the noise the crowd made. We had deliberately tried to ignore the *haka*; we were more interested in trying to concentrate on our own game. We didn't see why we should let it dominate our thoughts.

We didn't want to do what Ireland did and make a big scene

about it. I believe we got it about right by ignoring the whole thing. It was a pity we couldn't get our game right on the day.

We had not played the All Blacks for so long and we did not really know what to expect. It is okay watching videos but you need to play against people face-to-face. We got very tense beforehand, during the long build-up, and, frankly, we were pleased to get that match out of the way. It would have been a great lift to us had we won but defeat did not mean we could not reach the final.

Once the other matches started

to get going, and people focused their attention elsewhere, we found the tension disappeared a bit. We had some freedom to concentrate on Italy and I thought quite well.

In glimpses, Italy showed what a good side it can be and they scored a superb try. The trouble was that we had the match won just after half-time, at 30-0, and they clearly decided to try to kill the game and stop us scoring many more points. It resulted in a flood of penalties as they infringed at every breakdown. We could not achieve any continuity.

The stream of penalties raised the debate over the strict interpretation by officials of players staying on their feet. My view is that sometimes it is very difficult, for forwards particularly, to stay

on their feet. I can see why the officials want to stop all the bodies on the floor but I think there should be some leeway to allow people to go on to the floor if they have been trying to lie all over the ball. They have just been attempting to secure possession.

The problem is this. At the moment, those in charge are trying to say no one else apart from the two players involved in the tackle can go on to the ground. Some players do not know what to do.

They are being told they must stand around and try to pick up the ball but, if you do that, you get flattened by an opponent charging into the scene of the breakdown.

Do you stand over it, try to pick it up and get hit by the opposition, or stand back and let them get it? Some referees are penalising it very strictly, others are not.

It's a very difficult one and very

hard for referees to interpret but it is also causing confusion and causing players to give away penalties when I don't feel they have been trying to lie all over the ball. They have just been attempting to secure possession.

Overall, I feel the tournament is building up nicely. We have not had any classic matches yet but the titanic games will start in the quarter-finals. The game I have enjoyed most so far was the Australian-Western Samoa match. It was played in dreadful conditions - the worst for rugby - yet some of the skills shown were wonderful. It was a great spectacle, a very, very good game and the Samoans were very unlucky not to win it.

World Cup rugby, page 38

Football League clubs agree to new idea

Players are now ready to play their full part

By PETER BALL

FOR the first time in the history of English professional football, the players are to be involved in the council chambers of the game. That was the most important development to come out of the meeting of 72 Football League clubs at Walsall yesterday as they came to terms with life after the launch of the Premier League next season.

The first meeting of the clubs since the split with the Premier League proved a radical and optimistic one. The clubs elected the League's three senior officers - Arthur Sandford, the chief executive, David Dent, the secretary, and Trevor Phillips, the commercial director - to form a planning committee to report back with proposals for a new constitution in a month's time.

That decision, and the mood of the meeting, will have taken some of the League's more virulent critics by surprise but suggestions that blood would be split yesterday - with Sandford a highly visible target - proved wide of the mark.

There were voices urging that the planning group should be formed by repre-

sentatives of the clubs but Bill Fox, the League president, insisted that the management committee members had their hands full already. The alternative proposal, for the election of the group which negotiated the terms of the separation with the first division, foundered for lack of support.

"We have a wide brief to consult and bring into the group anyone we want," Sandford, after the meeting in the conference centre at Walsall's stadium, said.

It is those powers which will enable Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), to at last play a significant role in preparing the game for the future.

Sandford's group will also

consult a wide range of interested parties, including the two supporters' associations and the secretaries' and managers' association, but the PFA will be more deeply involved. "We see our involvement with the PFA as something special," Sandford said.

"Our involvement with the PFA is excellent, open and special. That's not meant to

devalue the role that these other organisations can play. But we expect the PFA to be greatly involved in our deliberations about how we go forward."

The plan is an exciting one. Football's leaders have traditionally been reluctant to allow players any say in the game's administration, unlike more forward-looking sports like golf and tennis.

It is ironic that it is the Football League, whose critics have maintained that it is incapable of change, which is taking this step. They may have set a trend which the Premier League will find hard to resist although the Football Association - the Premier League's patron - has always been the most obdurate in its resistance to allowing the professional voices a say.

At the FA offices in London yesterday, the Premier League clubs began the process of putting their competition in place for next season. The clubs agreed to set up "task forces" in a bid to establish the main framework by Christmas.

Rick Parry, the Premier League spokesman, said: "I was pleasantly surprised at the progress made. We had that feeling of togetherness again." Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, said: "The meeting was very encouraging and productive."

The separate "task forces" will concentrate on matters relating to a new rule book, the relationship with players and contracts, and the new League's commercial activities and its relationship with the FA. They will "lock themselves away for 48 hours" and report back to the clubs on November 20.

Emmen, who stands as straight as a guardsman and looks a bit like Jack Doyle in his guardsman days and a bit like a young Harry Simeone, and was seen as "a perfect gentleman" by John Morris, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, "a crowd pleaser" by Mickey Duff, the promoter, and "just

another soft touch" by the critics.

Aged 32 he is a successful businessman (he owns a gym), a boxing commentator, a blow-up cruiserweight and the Benelux heavyweight champion, just the kind of opponent Bruno needs at this stage of his career, according to Morris.

Emmen was recommended by the ratings committee of the European Boxing Union.

"They said he's a character and can fight and is entertaining and if Frank needs a test, John is the man," Morris said.

However, the Dutchman's record does not bear too close a scrutiny. He was not of the ring for one-and-a-half years, returning in 1990. In his six years as a professional he has had only 18 contests, won 16

and lost two. He was stopped in two rounds by the only big name he faced, Francesco Damiani, of Italy. Emmen was beaten by Johnny Held, who was beaten by Steve McCarthy, a British light heavyweight, who was stopped by Tony Wilson's man, admittedly with the help of his shoe.

"Emmen could go three rounds or even five," Duff said. "I would not be shocked if it went ten."

It all depends on how sharp Bruno is. According to George Francis, his trainer, Bruno is looking good, having sparred 50 rounds in the last three weeks. He has been training with a 19-and-a-half stone American, Greg Payne, who used to work with Mike Tyson, but Bruno's timing has not quite returned.

"It's taking time for the timing to come back," Francis said. "But overall it's going well." Bruno said: "I've been through a lot of wranglings with my eye operation and people saying I shouldn't be doing it. I know it sounds crazy but I've got boxing in my blood. I've got to get it out of my system."

When asked if he would take the opportunity of getting a few rounds under his belt" Bruno said: "I won't mess around. You can't take chances in the ring. I hope I'll be cool and calm and do the job properly."

"Everybody's been challenging me Holmes, Sweet D [Williams] and Lewis, but I've got to learn to walk before I can run. You never know after a few more fights a bout."

against Lewis might come to light. I've got to get the rust out of my body. I've got this king-sized bed. I chased her. Now I can."

Bruno has been working out at the gym of his former manager, Terry Lawless, the Royal Oak in Canning Town, but will shortly be going to a special training camp.

■ Bruno will share top-billing with a world title fight John "The Beast" Mugabi of Uganda, the former WBC super-welterweight champion managed by Mickey Duff, will fight Gerald McClellan, of Detroit, for the World Boxing Organisation middleweight title which was vacated recently by Chris Eubank.

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Soft Dutch: John Emmen, of The Netherlands, scrutinising Frank Bruno yesterday as the Briton's first comeback match was announced

Bruno begins comeback slowly

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK Bruno sized up the first opponent of his comeback campaign, John Emmen, of The Netherlands, when they met in London yesterday. "He's a big, strong lad, nice looking. You've got to give him respect," was the verdict of the big man who returns to the ring at the Albert Hall, on November 20.

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Cricket summit on South Africa

By RICHARD STREETON

SOUTH African hopes of playing in cricket's World Cup in Australia early next year were revived yesterday when the International Cricket Council (ICC) confirmed that a special meeting on the subject has been arranged in Sharjah. It will take place on October 23, the day after the Commonwealth conference ends in Harare.

ICC officials were understandably reluctant to speculate on what Commonwealth government heads will decide in Zimbabwe. Almost certainly, though, they will hope that any communiqué issued by the political leaders will encourage support for South Africa, as the republic continues its attempts to introduce a new constitution.

Guidance from this level for the ICC could set the seal on the concessionary mood that seems likely to prevail at the Sharjah meeting. By calling the meeting, the ICC have met constitutional objections from West Indies, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka to South Africa competing in the World Cup.

These four countries, who are playing a one-day tournament in Sharjah at the time

Azinger's anger spurs him

PAUL Azinger opened his defense of the BMW International Open yesterday by sharing the lead with Sandy Lyle, but the American believes he should not even be playing in Munich.

After shooting a seven-under-par 65, Azinger said: "I can't understand why Payne Stewart or I am doing here. We should be in the Dunhill Cup team at St Andrews."

"He is the US Open champion and I am ranked ninth in the world after playing with a shoulder injury this season. I can't work out from what criteria they pick the team."

Azinger, aged 31, from Florida, played near flawless golf to record seven birdies and looked sure to hold the overnight lead alone until Lyle rolled in a 30-footer at the last to join him.

Lyle said playing with Azinger and the European Ryder Cup team member, David Gilford, who scored a 67, had lifted him after three ten-foot putts failed to drop early in his round, leaving him one over par.

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Dunhill Cup, page 39

Fifa takes steps towards banning the back-pass

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

COMMENT

Two-goal lead by spending almost as much time retreating as advancing towards Stoke City's goal.

The former champions were indulging in a common practice, which would require the approval of at least six of the eight members of the board, would be introduced at the start of next season.

In principle, the step is laudable. Anything done to discourage the practice, which was one of the contributory factors to the tedium of last summer's negative World Cup finals, would surely be well received. Those who attended the Rumbelows Cup tie at the Victoria Ground, on Wednesday night, for instance, would have been infuriated by Liverpool. In the closing half-hour, they chose to defend a

proposal was what to do if it was brought in", he said. "I know that other managers would react in the same way. It is not difficult to see that you could just kick the ball behind the opposition's defence and then say to them 'Now get out of that'."

"The intentions are good and everybody might applaud it and think that it is a terrific idea but they are missing the point. It is the same with the offside rule." It has been proposed that a team cannot be outside at a set piece taken from inside its own half.

"All I would do in that case", Wilkinson said, "is to get hold of players who could kick a ball 75 yards, buy no one who is under 6ft 4in and tell my team to send in a load of garyowens."

The game he is describing is an extension of the long-ball version practised by sides lacking quality. In other words, he is justifiably arguing that Fifa, in attempting to promote more attractive football, could inadvertently be designing a less sophisticated and unappealing product.